Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016

The real SUPER MUTANTS among us

Science Says

SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS!

0% INTEREST UP TO 84 MONTHS + $0 DOWN PAYMENT + 0 PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

THE POWER OF ZERO

Assmaa Yassin holds up a drawing she used to thank the Prime Minister for welcoming Syrians. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

A PM FROM THE PM

Trudeau thanks newcomer for portrait

Bike thefts up by 44%

CRIME

Police and Bike Calgary working toward solution

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Lynn Boekhoff and her husband had just moved into their new Inglewood home when two bikes went missing from her garage. All that was left were track marks and footprints leading away from the crime scene.

"It's pretty invasive, because they actually had to come in beside our house and into our backyard along our house," Boekhoff said. "It's creepy."

She said they won't be leaving anything of value in their garage from now on.

New statistics gathered by Calgary Police Service show a rising trend. Thefts jumped 44 per cent in 2015 over 2014 numbers — and in one third of the cases, bikes were swiped in break-ins.

"This is concerning. We never want to see bike thefts on the increase," said Bike Calgary president Agustin Louro. He noted that though thefts are on the rise, so is bike ownership.

What could be around the corner is a joint initiative by Bike Calgary and CPS to create a voluntary bike registry, among other initiatives, like Vancouver has recently done.

"We're looking at inspiration from other cities," Louro explained.

Sgt. Katrina O'Reilly with the CPS mountain bike unit, said a majority of bikes are being stolen from detached garages — and underground parking or secured condo parking facilities.

"The core itself has attracted a tremendous amount of new cyclists," O'Reilly said. "It's a different community down here."

There's a number of things police are doing to combat the upward trend. O'Reilly said they have been working directly with condo boards, trying to educate the public on how to secure bikes, and letting people know the importance of reporting.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

She's a refugee baby trying to get to Germany. Her name is Serbia Merkel. **World**

Library feeling Princely love

MUSIC

Calgarians may struggle to find physical copies

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you're looking to delve into a weekend of nostalgia led by Prince, you might have to hold.

A week after the artist's death, Calgarians with a thin Prince repertoire are forced to hunt for his material — especially at the local library.

The Calgary Public Library is scrambling to order albums, with some people waiting on copies that haven't even arrived yet. And it may not be able to fill the need for physical discs because most albums aren't available on CD anymore.

"The day Prince died, we ordered more material," said Mark Asberg, director of service delivery at the Calgary Public Library. "Less is available than it used to be, since things are moving quickly to download and away from CDs."

The hold lists are long, and each person can have items for up to two weeks. But the library has free streaming databases such as hoopla, where users can instantly download music to their personal devices.

And at Sloth Records, Devin Friesen said they were pretty much cleaned out of the artist's material the day he died. They still only have his first album in stock — usually not a top seller.

Rebecca Sullivan, a pop-culture expert and professor at the University of Calgary, said it's no surprise. She said whenever a cultural icon dies, it's listening that transports people back to important moments in their lives and puts people face-to-face with their own mortality.

"There are certain artists whose music is so formative of an entire generation ... of a really significant, transformative moment in our culture," Sullivan said. "Prince, when he arrived on the scene, was unlike anyone else and he saturated our consciousness. He was a phenomenon."

PRINCE

60

Number of holds on three copies

This is Prince's second album, released in 1979. It was entirely self written, performed and arranged, apart from track 2, in which a friend and bassist lent their voice for a harmony. This album was much more successful than his first.

THE VERY BEST OF PRINCE

191

Number of holds on three copies

If you're looking for a trip down memory lane or just want to learn who this Prince guy is, this might be the easiest way. All of his major hits are included on the 17-track disc. The compilation made it into the U.S. Billboard 200 at number 66.

PURPLE RAIN

85

Number of holds on three copies

This feature-length film sets the stage for Prince's acting debut. He plays "the Kid," a front man for Minneapolis band The Revolution. The concept was developed during Prince's 1999 tour as a dark drama but was drastically revised.

SIGN O' THE TIMES

62

Number of holds on three copies

Released in 1987, this is Prince's first solo album since his departure from The Revolution. The sales were modest but still managed to yield three top-10 hits. It was applauded almost unanimously as his greatest work.

Alberta has a beef with Earls

BUSINESS

Restaurant chain switches to U.S. stock

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's definitely got beef, but restaurant chain Earls isn't having it.

The Vancouver-based eatery's decision to become the "first restaurant chain in North America" to serve only beef with the Certified Humane designation had Albertans raising metaphorical pitchforks online, and ranchers wondering: Why the snub?

In a statement released online Wednesday night, Earls said animals on Certified Humane ranches are "treated with care, respect and dignity from birth to pasture," while Certified Humane abattoirs are designed by animal-behaviour expert Temple Grandin, who specializes in "calm, low-stress environments." What's more, they boast a hormone- and antibiotic-free upbringing.

Cattle graze winter pasture near Longview, Alta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earls was claiming Alberta's supply of similar product wasn't stable enough to meet its demands, so the chain turned elsewhere for beef — one of its top-selling items.

But Bob Lowe, chairman of Alberta Beef Producers, isn't buying the reasoning. According to him, these certifications are nothing more than a stamp, a marketing ploy, promoting a system most ranchers already adhere to. The certification is available in Canada, and isn't a cost-prohibitive measure to take, so he said there's something else at play.

> **Most of what is in that, we're already doing as standard business.**
> Bob Lowe, chairman of Alberta Beef Producers

"Any meat that hits the table is antibiotic-free, so that's an advertising ploy," Lowe said. "Most of what is in that, we're already doing as standard business.

"I have a really hard time with the concept that if they were paying a premium for a producer to do this ... why producers wouldn't do it."

The Canadian cattle industry is already working on a certification of its own through the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, that would not only encompass these "humane" practices but also have added environmental stringencies.

"As an industry we've been fully aware that our social license probably needed some improving, so we've been proactive and transparent; we knew we had to go one step further," Lowe said. "It will be proving to society that what we're doing is sustainable."

The announcement incited anger on social media, with Opposition Wildrose party Leader Brian Jean and federal Conservative MP Jason Kenney jumping into the fray on Twitter. Scores of social media users threatened to boycott the chain.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHAT IS IT?

'Certified Humane' is an involved process

What's Certified Humane?

Well first off, it's trademarked. The certification is given by the non-profit Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC) group in Virginia. Its website lists 38 farmers, from cheese to chicken, eggs and beef who have been certified.

It costs farmers $75 to apply, and about $600 to have an inspector come. Then, there's a certification fee which is set on a range of 13 cents to $1.05 per head, depending on how much cattle is being certified at a time. Those fees are doled out on a per-month basis. The document on beef cattle, which farmers vying for the certification must follow, is 46 pages long and has a list of standards each group must follow to get the humane seal of approval. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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CITY HALL

Pedestrian strategy back before council Monday

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

After a major overhaul, Calgary's pedestrian strategy is going back before council Monday.

The report first went to council in late January but was sent back to city administration with concerns.

The 100-plus page report now has responses to questions and concerns raised in January, as well as new recommendations.

Although dropping residential speed limits to 40 km/h was near the top of the list of recommendations, it will now likely be pulled out of the report and treated separately.

"Perhaps there'll be a little more reliance on consultation before we move forward," said Coun. Druh Farrell, who has been one of the strongest proponents for pedestrian safety.

"I'm very supportive of a speed limit reduction," she said. "We know people are being injured on city streets — we're at 120 already this year. We know the costs."

The report is about more than just reducing speed limits. It looks at how to design the city in a way that is more comfortable for pedestrians.

"We know what attracts pedestrians," she said. "It's interesting surroundings. It's shopping streets. If you want people to walk in a neighbourhood, you make the trip interesting and comfortable."

Farrell expects the report should gain council's approval this Monday, but Coun. Sean Chu said he won't be supporting the report.

For him it's not about the report's recommendations, but rather the cost involved.

"Everybody cares for pedestrian safety," said Chu. "My only concern is the 10 full-time people they're going to hire."

Pam Krause of the Calgary Sexual Health Centre finds the reinfection rate alarming. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Nearly 50% had extra STI: Data

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Findings show reinfection rate high for people with gonorrhea

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Nearly half of Alberta's 2015 gonorrhea crowd were double-dippers within a year of contracting the sexually transmitted infection (STI).

After the government sounded alarms over Alberta's skyrocketing STI rates, new data shows 45 per cent of individuals with gonorrhea in 2015 were also diagnosed with an additional case of gonorrhea, chlamydia or syphilis between 2014-15, according to Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Pam Krause, president and CEO at the Calgary Sexual Health Centre, said the reinfection rate is likely due to the lack of skills people develop to change behaviour.

"One thing is to get tested and treated … one thing is to have safe sex, but where is the consistency in communication, negotiation and decision making?," she said. "If people aren't actually developing any skills to change their behaviour then we're just going to see this continue."

AHS spokesman Kerry Williamson said the health authority strongly emphasizes prevention with all STI patients.

"Prevention is what protects that patient from being infected with another STI, and is also what protects others from being infected," Williamson said. "Prevention is more than merely using protection — it includes talking with partners about sexual history, includes routine testing, and even includes type of sexual activity in which a person engages."

The government largely blamed the spike in STI rates on social media — something Krause questions, given the high reinfection rate.

"If we just keep getting people having STIs more than once in a year, then really the rates will get out of control," she said.

On Tuesday, Dr. Gerry Predy, Senior Medical Director, Population and Public Health with AHS, said the spike shows no signs of levelling off, adding the authority is partnering with the government to spread awareness efforts.

STIs CALGARY

Chlamydia
368.5 cases per 100,000 people in 2015.

Gonorrhea
41.8 cases per 100,000 people in 2015.

Local music display touring libraries

MUSIC

Collection spans genres, with CDs going back 30 years

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's music scene is on tour — and you can catch it at various library locations.

The unit, which will tour eight library locations, is a bookshelf with a listening station and screens to show old tickets and posters of shows gone by.

Stickers on each of the works will describe band members, general sound and other interesting tidbits.

"It's kind of crazy, all of the CDs were donated to us," said Kerry Maguire, CJSW project's coordinator.

"We ended up with over 600 donations."

The final collection has been curated to represent as many genres as possible, and the CDs go back 30 years.

"We were trying to make a story, and not just representing the current moment," Maguire said.

"We included bands that were a huge success, maybe bands that were more niche and people who are currently performing."

The vibrant showcase of Calgary's music scene will be on display throughout 2016.

CJSW and The Calgary Public Library will launch the project at Memorial Park Library on May 7, with an all-ages concert at 2 p.m.

Each branch the unit visits will kick off its stay with a small concert.

Kerry Maguire, with some help, sorted hundreds of CDs to pick the perfectly Calgarian collection. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Group shifts focus to ESL classes, jobs

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

When the Syrian Refugee Support Group's (SRSG) warehouse closed its doors earlier this month, the logical question was: What's next?

Sam Nammoura, co-founder of the SRSG, said although they no longer have a physical community hub anymore, the group is continuing their support efforts, but now they're shifting their focus.

"There are only two ways to integrate, only two ways we can guarantee the success of the Syrian refugee resettlement in Canada — language and jobs," he said.

Nammoura said whereas the SRSG was previously focused on making sure the newcomers had all the things they needed, including housing, clothes, appliances and other necessities such as that, they're now concentrated on these two priorities.

The SRSG is now using the connections and community they fostered at the warehouse to facilitate volunteer led English as a second language classes (ESL).

"We can see the system is overloaded with all the newcomers and trying to accommodate them all at the same time so the wait list was super long — too long," he said.

Nammoura said many of the volunteers from the SRSG are now trying to set up ESL group classes to bridge this gap.

He said finding jobs is not only important for the newcomers to begin making money, but also as a way to socialize and integrate.

"Any time we post something about any job opportunities they jump on it, and it's not necessarily because they want to make more money," he said. "But, it's because only going to school for two hours a day and otherwise having nothing to do is hard on them."

"Finding a job becomes a necessity as a way to get out of the house, integrate with community, meet people, make some money and maintain healthy relationships at home," he said.

Anyone wishing to volunteer, who has job postings or odd jobs for newcomers, please contact the SRSG website at www.yycsyr.ca

CRIME

Man faces cocaine trafficking charges

The Calgary Police Service Guns and Gangs Unit has charged a man in relation to a cocaine trafficking investigation.

According to CPS on April 27, three search warrants were executed in relation to this investigation. Two of the search warrants were on related vehicles and the third was at an apartment in the 1000 block of 6 Ave SW. Police said this investigation was aimed at stopping an active drug-trafficking cell operating in Calgary.

As a result of the search warrants, 22 packaged bundles of cocaine equaling 16.8 grams worth $900, along with small amounts of OxyContin and marijuana, were seized. Officers also seized $19,305 cash as proceeds of crime.

Travis Huynh, 23, of Calgary, is charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, possession of marijuana and proceeds of crime. He will next appear in court on Friday.

METRO

Refugee draws PM, gets praise

ACHIEVEMENT

Trudeau sends personal note to young artist

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

When Assmaa Yassin found out she would be coming to Canada as a refugee from Syria, her dream was to meet Canada's main man, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was the symbol of a new life for her.

Metro previously reported on Yassin back in March, telling the story of how when Yassin arrived in Calgary in February she carried with her a portrait she'd done of Trudeau, with a note on the back, thanking him for welcoming Syrians to Canada.

Sam Nammourra, the co-founder of the Syrian Refugee Support Group Calgary said as soon as he met Yassin and saw her portrait of Trudeau he promised to find the right people to get it to the PM, and he did.

In a letter, penned on official PM stationary, Trudeau thanks the new Calgarian for the "very well-drawn portrait," of him.

Assmaa Yassin's portrait of Justin Trudeau with her letter of appreciation, pictured left, both of which made it to the Prime Minister. Right: The letter of appreciation back from Trudeau. JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

"I am touched and honoured by the thought and effort you put into this picture," he wrote.

Trudeau welcomed Yassin and her family to Canada, a place he said doesn't care where you came from.

"I hope that Canada is a safe home for you and your family," reads the letter. "Our country is a place where your background is not a barrier to your aspirations and successes, and I encourage you to continue working hard as a leader in your school and community."

Yassin said her ultimate goal was to meet the PM in person.

"I'm very happy to get the letter," she said. "I wish I could have met him in person to thank him on behalf of all the Syrian people in Canada."

She said she was touched by Trudeau's correspondence.

"The words he used were so beautiful," she said. "It just shows what a humble man he is."

Nammoura said he was ecstatic when he found out the PM had actually received the painting, and hopes it's hanging in his office. He also let it slip that Yassin is working on a portrait Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

SURVIVAL

Dogs protect lost girl

An Alberta girl who got lost in the bush says her dogs kept her warm during the chilly night.

RCMP say they got a call Wednesday night about a nine-year-old girl from the Frog Lake First Nation being lost.

Sgt. Barry LaRocque says residents of the reserve, about 230 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, were already searching when police arrived.

He says they searched all night, and around 7 a.m. Thursday, the girl, along with three larger mixed-breed dogs, emerged from the dense bush a few kilometres from home.

LaRocque says the girl told him the dogs lay beside her and kept her warm throughout the night as temperatures dipped to 2 Celsius.

The girl was taken to hospital to get checked out, and LaRocque says she got a clean bill of health.

"That was a pretty unique and special thing that the dogs did for their family member," he said.

"The dogs were a bit of a hero last night." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clinic's workers facing layoffs and wage freezes

HEALTH

Budget issues biting hard as Primary Care staff feel heat

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Many health care workers with Alberta's primary care clinics are being laid off and facing wage freezes, according to multiple sources.

The province's Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have recently entered the 2016-17 fiscal year — most with budgets that are strapped for cash as they are without surplus dollars they had in past years.

Sources told Metro the Calgary West, Bow Valley, and Chinook PCNs have laid off workers because they were financed by surpluses that aren't being refunded by the government.

In particular, the Calgary West PCN has or is expected to lay off 26 workers, according to Jason Shenher, executive director with the Mosaic PCN in Calgary.

Jonathan Macpherson, board governance advisor with the Calgary West PCN, didn't confirm or deny the layoffs.

"I can't provide any comment on that," Macpherson said. "It's not my area of employment to be talking to any media personnel."

Repeated calls made to Calgary West and Bow Valley's executive directors weren't returned.

Andrea Desjardins, executive director with Chinook PCN — based in Lethbridge — also didn't confirm or deny the layoffs.

"I'm not in a position to talk about that," Desjardins said. "I'm happy to talk to you about what our network does … but I'm not going to be discussing financial matters with you."

Primary Care Networks have laid off workers and enacted wage freezes. METRO FILE PHOTO

> **We don't want to affect patient care in any way.**
> Chrissie Worth, PCN Calgary South

Calgary South PCN spokeswoman Chrissie Worth said the networks have enacted a wage and hiring freeze.

"We implemented those measures instead of layoffs," Worth said. "We don't want to affect patient care in any way."

Shenher, whose PCN will be clear of cuts, said the layoffs may have been caused by how local PCNs decided to fund health-care workers.

He said some chose to finance contract workers on accumulated surplus dollars. As a result, those workers who were supported by surplus money saw their jobs cut as there wasn't enough new 2016-17 funding to support surplus spending.

"They were told to do balanced-based budgeting," he said. "Some never did that, but I think there was a lack of clarity on where to spend (surplus dollars)."

The government said it considered the unique situation of each PCN, when PCNs were asked to use their accumulated surpluses last year. It said PCNs receive per-capita grant funding of $62 per patient per year.

Shenher said Mosaic has always operated on a platform that doesn't spend surplus money, meaning it won't face cuts.

He added he supports the government's new direction, which he said encourages PCNs to spend within their means and not on surpluses.

$20.4B

The consolidated health budget for the province of Alberta in 2016-17 is $20.4 billion, which government resources say reflects a Health Ministry consolidated operating budget increase of 3% on the previous year.

DEVELOPMENT

Suite law switches hit snag

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Two councillors' plans to make minor changes to secondary suite bylaws have run up against opposition from several community associations, as well as individuals.

The motion, co-sponsored by councillors Gian-Carlo Carra and Andre Chabot, would reduce the necessary frontage a home would need to quality for a secondary suite, as well as increase the potential size of the suite in some cases.

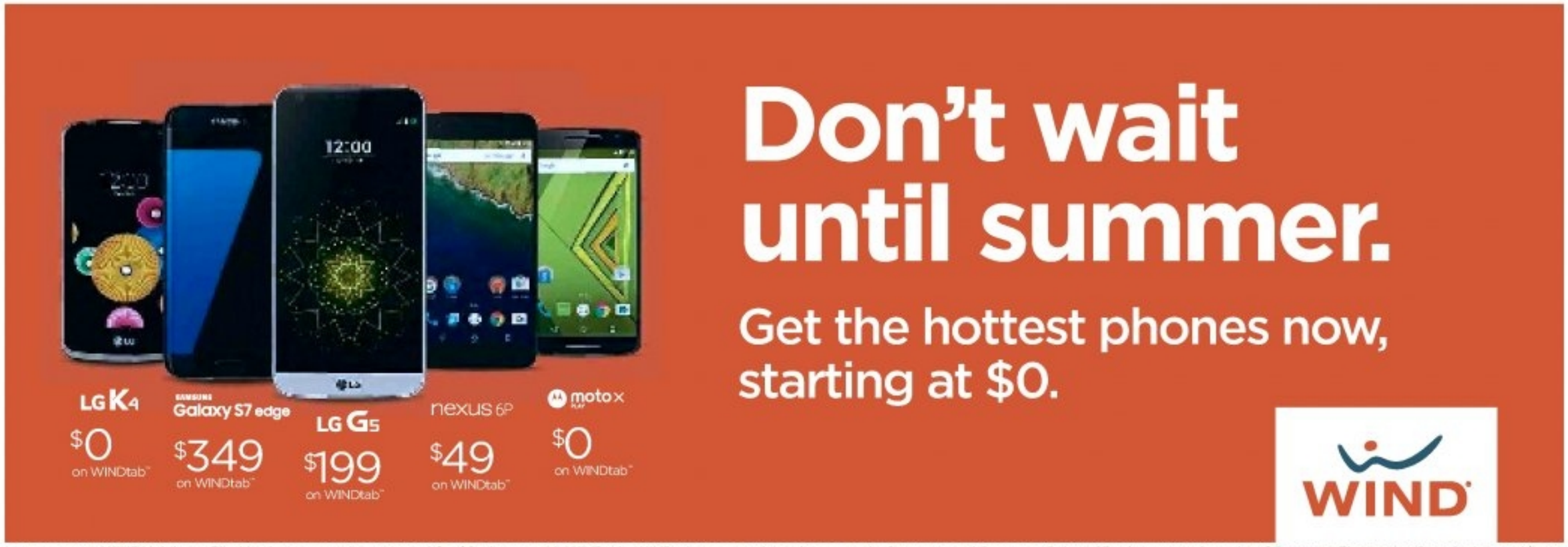
Carra said he believes the opposition is largely from people who are conflating what they are proposing to do — which is simply reduce red tape.

"We're just removing those layers of regulations," said Carra, adding that if a homeowner has met onerous fire, parking and building code regulations, frontage is probably moot.

One of the groups voicing opposition is the Richmond-Knob Hill Community Association. Doug Roberts, chairman of that association's development committee, said his group is not opposed to densification and already allows secondary suites.

It's the fact that neighbouring communities are not allowing secondary suites that bothers Roberts.

"If you want to expose us to further densification by opening up our skinny parcels, you'd better open up these (other residential) areas to suites first," he said.



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STI expert tackles gay men's concerns

SOCIAL MEDIA

Health worker using apps to help mingling singles online

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Brian Hansen isn't on social media hook-up apps to get it on.

As STI rates continue to skyrocket, especially among men who have sex with men, the Calgary Sexual Health Centre's Hansen is helping guys through what government officials say is the root of spiking STI rates.

You name it — he's on Grindr, Scruff, Jack'd, and Hornet, answering questions and referring guys to the right resources.

"We're a resource that's there in that moment," he said. "If they have questions before or after they have sex with somebody, we're there."

> If they have questions before or after they have sex with somebody, we're there. Brian Hansen

He said he doesn't bombard guys online; rather, he just hangs out and helps guys with relationships, potential risks and testing information.

"It's very clear on the profile I'm a health specialist with the Calgary Sexual Health Centre," he said.

The government largely blamed the alarming jump in STI rates on social media. According to Hansen, more gay men are turning to hook-up apps to meet others, so it just made sense for the sexual health centre to have an online presence.

"If we continue to focus all of our outreach on these brick and mortar establishments — the clubs and the bathhouses — we're missing people," he said. "We need to be where the people are."

Health officials have said prevention — not just protection — is key to protect others from being infected.

Hansen said his social media methods encourage prevention.

"Information is a form of prevention," he said. "I don't talk to guys about what they should and shouldn't do. I just give them information so that they can make their own decisions in an informed way."

Calgary police released this image from a CCTV feed in the area of the suspected arsons. COURTESY CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

MARLBOROUGH

Police searching for suspected arsonist

Calgary police are looking to the public for information on a series of suspicious fires in Marlborough.

Investigators believe three fires in the area may have been instances of targeted arson, but aren't sure of the motive.

The first fire was March 29, just before 11 p.m., in the 0 to 100 block of Markbank Way NE. Police and Calgary Fire Department arrived on the scene of a small fire which was started in a garbage can and had made its way up a fence in the back alley. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Then, at approximately 2:10 a.m. on April 1, a house fire roared through the same address, causing an estimated $20,000 in damages.

The third fire happened on April 5 at the same residence. It was in the same location of the second fire and caused $150,000 in damages.

Members of the Arson Unit are working with the homeowners to keep them safe should there be another fire.

Anyone with information about these fires is asked to contact police at the non-emergency number 403-266-1234. Tips can also be left anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers.

METRO

HEALTH & SAFETY

Investigations launched after workplace deaths

Separate workplace accidents in Alberta in a single day have killed two people.

Calgary-based Pembina Pipeline Corp., confirms that a contractor died Wednesday afternoon at one of its facilities near Redwater, northeast of Edmonton.

The company has not released any details, but Occupational Health and Safety tells Global News that a worker was wearing an air mask and using an air tank while performing maintenance on a tower.

They brought him down but he died at the scene.

Earlier in the day, a man was fatally injured when he was struck by a piece of equipment at the Nova Chemicals PEI Expansion Project in Joffre in central Alberta.

He died in the Red Deer hospital. METRO

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A swimmer's road to Rio

OLYMPICS

Calgarian Yuri Kisil will be in the pool nine times a week

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Every time swimmer Yuri Kisil steps on the pool deck before a competition he cracks his knuckles and his neck — it's part of his pre-race ritual.

The 20-year-old Calgary native will be representing Canada at this summer's Rio Olympics — a life-long dream come true.

Kisil spoke with Metro Thursday about his regime, the excitement of the upcoming games, growing up as a high-performance athlete, what he gave up to make it to the top — but most importantly, what he gained from the sport he's dedicated his life to.

"Of course I gave up a little bit of a social life to get to this point, but, what I've gained from swimming far outweighs what I gave up," he said. "I've travelled the world and gone to places I never dreamed I would go, I've made tons of friends around the world and overall it's been such a positive experience — I wouldn't change it."

Kisil said of the places he's travelled, his favourite was Singapore, for the architecture and the general "vibe," but said the biggest culture shock he's ever experienced was in Japan.

"There is nothing cooler than going to a new place and experiencing their culture," he said. "Japan was the biggest culture shock for me. I didn't realize what a big role anime and manga played in their culture. You hear about it in Canada but you don't see it in day-to-day life here like you do there — it was kind of crazy, but really cool."

With just over three months before Rio, Kisil said he is working on meeting his target weight of 188 lbs. In order to do that he'll be training nine times a week in the pool, five times a week doing dry land, and of course, indulging in his favourite carby meal: Pasta.

Kisil said after he competes in 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre freestyle, 4x100 freestyle relay and the 4x100 medley relay, he will be taking in the sights with his family and cheering on his fellow Canadians.

"I hear that's one of the best parts of the Olympics is being able to watch my fellow athletes compete and experiencing their sports," he said.

Yuri Kisil stands with fellow swimmers as they wait to be introduced as members of Canada's Olympic swim team during a ceremony following the final session of the Canadian Olympic swimming trials in Toronto April 10. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Representation is the new TV

SCENE YYC

'Orange' star says show's diversity is basis of appeal

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

When Orange is the New Black star Jackie Cruz lands in Calgary this weekend – straight from the sunswept beaches of Miami – she's hoping the Calgary Comic Expo will deliver her a Khaleesi or two.

This is will be her first comic convention, and right now she's obsessed with Game of Thrones.

"I'm excited to see people dressed up, I'm excited, but I don't know what to expect," she laughed.

She would love to spot a Batman at the expo, too – specifically, of the Michael Keaton variety.

While the show is not a comic book property, Calgary Expo spokeswoman Emily Expo said it's firmly rooted in pop culture.

"When a new season comes out on Netflix, it seems like everybody's talking about it," Expo explained. "Something we've always maintained is, we are a pop culture convention, which is a really broad definition. So, every once in a while, we like to dabble in something a little bit different, a little bit outside the norm, and feel it out."

For Cruz, she believes the appeal of the show is pretty simple – regardless of whether plotlines are about fighting supervillains or navigating a woman's prison, it all boils down to representation.

> **I never saw anyone who looked like me on TV.**
> Jackie Cruz

"I feel like people are finally seeing themselves on TV," she said, pointing not only to her own character Marisol (Flaca) Gonzales, but to diverse cast as a whole. "Me growing up as a Latina … I never saw anyone who looked like me on TV."

Having grown up in the Dominican Republic, Cruz moved to America at 15 with tanned skin and a head full of ambition.

"I was this brown-skinned, curly-haired girl who spoke Spanish, and they didn't know what to do with me," she recalled. "I couldn't get an agent or manager."

It was her persistence that finally helped her find representation in the industry – and after a long struggle, land a role on Orange is the New Black.

Cruz will at the Comic Expo signing autographs and participating in panels on Saturday and Sunday.

Jackie Cruz of Orange is the New Black is coming to Calgary Comic Expo. COURTESY CALGARY EXPO

CALGARY ZOO

Black and white, and climbing out of the red all over

The pandas are rolling in dough.

On Thursday, the Alberta government announced a $10-million dollar investment that they say will help bring panda-monium to Calgary.

The full project, complete with landscape work and infrastructure renovations, will set the Calgary Zoo back a total of about $37.6 million.

The City of Calgary is also contributing $8 million and the rest will be raised through donors to complete the panda enclosure and extra sprucing work in time for 2018 when the black-and-white beasts will make their way from Toronto to Calgary.

"We are very excited and honoured that China's most beloved and iconic animals will call the Calgary Zoo their home away from home," said Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism in a prepared release.

"This $10-million investment will make panda-mania possible!

"The Calgary Zoo is world-renowned and this expansion will help increase tourism, create jobs and contribute to a very important conservation program. This opportunity to host China's national treasures reinforces Alberta's strong and growing relationship with China."

Money is coming out of the Alberta Jobs Plan and is meant to enhance the tourism experience in Calgary.

It's estimated the pandas will bring in extra visitors and boost tourism in the city by $16 million to $18 million, while also bolstering revenue for the Calgary Zoo, from $79 million to more than $95 million.

"We are pleased the provincial government is supportive of this important tourism and conservation project," said Andrew MacNair, chairman of the Calgary Zoological Society in a prepared release.

"This is a shovel-ready project and we are able to start construction and put people to work as soon as the necessary permits are in place," McNair continued.

"This exhibit will also attract more visitors than ever to the Calgary Zoo, which means more opportunities to inspire people to act for conservation."

METRO

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY — Arab Night Film Festival
The annual Arab Night Film Festival takes place at Festival Hall. Presented by the Calgary Arab Arts and Culture Society, a variety of films present a positive view of Arab life and society. Films included genres like animation and mystery.
For more information, visit www.calgaryarabartssociety.ca.
AARON CHATHA/METRO

SATURDAY — Jenga Tournament
A day to meet new friends and knock over a few blocks — the fourth annual Jenga tournament and social mixer is presented by Team Busy. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 draw, and a DJ playing while teams play for the title.
The tournament starts at 6 p.m. at the Local 522 Public Tavern.

SATURDAY — Major Minor
The monthly Major Minor Music Project promotes artistic experimentation in an all-ages concert.
Billed as a way for the Calgary music scene to find its voice, the events fuse learning opportunities to engage young people and foster intergenerational communication.
It takes place at The Art Box at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY — Carnival Cocktails for Cancer
Carnival inspired cocktails and dishes will be served at the annual Carnival Cocktails for Cancer event. Back for a second year, it will feature music from DJ Carl Cassidy, a silent auction and classic, carnival entertainment.
20 participating eateries including Teatro and Native Tongues will participate.
For more information, visit www.carnivalcocktails.ca.

Rapper Royce Da 5'9" said he's going more personal than ever with his new album, which was released April 15.
COURTESY JEREMY DEPUTAT

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Royce peels his Layers

SCENE Q&A

Detroit-based MC discusses introspective new album

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Known for his collaborations with Eminem and DJ Premier, it's been five years since Royce Da 5'9" released a solo album. He comes to Calgary to celebrate the release of Layers on May 5, at Dickens Pub.

What kind of feel were you going for on the new album?
It was kind of a reintroduction. It's been about five, six years since I did a solo album.
This is me just peeling back the layers of the different albums I've been doing.
I'm a lot more introspective on this album. Sharing a lot more of my personal views, which I didn't do before.

Any anxiety or nervousness over sharing so much, so publicly in the music?
Not now. I would have before, that's why I never did it. I've always been super private. I never really felt the need to talk about personal things.
The reason why I'm so introspective now is because it's so therapeutic for me to get some of these things out. There's a lot of negativity that used to hit me before.
I see a therapist once a week, so, I'm kind of in the mood to talk about things and get things out now. It's kind of become second nature for me.
Now when I go in to listen to the beat, I write about things I've been thinking about, or it might be something I remember from my childhood.

Since your first album in 2002, how has the rap scene changed?
It's changed in the sense that music is very easy to get. We used to literally flip out when songs used to get bootlegged. Bootleggers used to sell your album on the street corner.
Rappers used to rap about beating up bootleggers. That was a big thing, if your album got out. That could make or break whether you get shelved or dropped from a label. Rappers were always making sure they kept their music real close to them.
After that, artists were speaking out against Napster.
Now it's like, you want your music to be out there. Before your album comes out, you pitch to a site that streams it, so people can hear it. The more spread out it is, the higher your profile.

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POW! PARADE

Mayor ready to step out in style of Stan

Candice Ward
For Metro | Calgary

TAKE A LOOK

Single day tickets for the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo are still available (as of Thursday afternoon). It runs until 5 p.m. Sunday.

Well it might not be the red carpet at the Academy Awards or even the Juno Awards, but for Mayor Naheed Nenshi, the POW! Parade of Wonders is an important event for him to put his best fashion foot forward.

Acting as honourary parade marshal once again this year (for the fourth year in a row), Nenshi says this year's outfit — especially his shoes — will pay tribute to the legendary comic icon Stan Lee's last Alberta convention appearance.

"It involves a perfect pair of shoes — the shoes are unspeakably awesome and super appropriate for this particular year," said Nenshi.

The POW Parade sees hundreds of costumed characters and cosplayers take to the streets of Calgary and help kick off the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo that takes place over the weekend at Stampede Park.

Over the past few years, Nenshi has led the parade in fashions that have paid tribute to Doctor Who, Back to the Future, and now Stan Lee.

Although Nenshi enjoys getting into the spirit of the weekend through a cleverly-planned parade outfit, he says the most important part is showing support for the event that helps to create a sense of community in Calgary that's unlike any other event throughout the year.

"It is a huge, huge event for the City of Calgary — some call it the second biggest event after the Stampede," says Nenshi.

"I just love that we are a city where people can let their inner fan fly and I love learning about new hobbies and new ways people are forming community."

He adds that this event helps to boost tourism for the city, as well as bring a different type of media attention.

"Sometimes it's good for people to see a part of Calgary that doesn't involve a cowboy hat," says Nenshi.

Calgary Expo organizers say they couldn't be happier with the level of support mayor Nenshi and the City have given the event.

"We are one of the luckiest cities on the planet," says Emily Expo. "Not only does our Mayor support us and our fans, but he shows up in such a huge way."

Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi has been a big Calgary Comic Expo booster over the years. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Kelly Dowd of Redd Skull Comics said the expo is great for filling out a collection – but don't expect to get rich. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Mining for copies as rare as kryptonite

CALGARY 2016 COMIC EXPO
HOW TO HUNT A CLASSIC

Looking for a comic book fortune? Better put on a cape

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Fans flipping through comic issues hoping to find that rare first Superman or Spider-Man at the Calgary Comic Expo this weekend will likely leave disappointed.

Comic book vendors usually know their inventory, and don't just leave those things laying around — but that doesn't mean there's no value to be had in collecting comics.

"There's always going to be that diamond or gem in the rough that people overlook," said Kelly Dowd, owner of Redd Skull Comics.

Dowd said, for those hoping to find a comic worth a bit of money, the trick is to look at comics coming out from newer companies.

"Usually, startups are the ones that go for a lot of money, because no one catches it at first, and they usually go up in price."

It's nearly impossible to guess which character might become popular, but there's always a chance a fresh comic book might become the next Spider-Man in 10 years.

"For the bigger companies, it's usually a new character, next big comic character will debut. For example, The Punisher debuted in a Spider-Man book, and Batman debuted in Detective Comics #27.

$3.2 million

An original copy of the Action Comics #1 that introduced Earth to Superman became the world's most expensive comic book in 2014.

Speaking of Detective Comics, Dowd does know one fan that managed to track down the elusive #27 issue, which has been valued at more than $1 million. But he said, after a lifetime of searching, that fan stumbled upon it purely by chance.

Julian Mena, of Calgary's Phoenix Comics, agreed that because comics have become so popular, people are good at recognizing the value of certain old issues, especially at Expo.

"That stuff, you're more likely to find at a garage sale, where people don't really know what they have," he said.

Both Mena and Dowd said they never promote comic books as an investment.

It's more about the fun — people read comics and collect issues out of love for characters, writers and illustrators.

And for those collectors, who are missing the middle part of an old Flash story, or want to mount their favourite Daredevil arc on their wall — the Calgary Comic Expo becomes a palace of possibilities.

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ANIMAL WELFARE

Rescue society wants buyers to know where a pet comes from

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's animal rescue society wants Albertans to start doing their homework to help shut down the province's puppy mills.

To help spread awareness, AARCS is hosting a viewing of the documentary Dog By Dog, which examines the puppy mill industry in the U.S.

"If you buy a puppy off Kijiji, do you really know where that animal came from and what its parents are going through," said Deanna Thompson, executive director of the Alberta Animal Rescue Society (AARCS).

Thompson describes a puppy mill as a seller who pumps out puppies for profit, with little to no care for the animals' well-being. The dogs are usually kept in cages and lack walks, medical visits and the love and attention they need.

Thompson recalls two high-profile cases in 2015 where Alberta puppy mills were shut down. The first in Milk River, which she called a combination of selling and hoarding dogs, occurred early 2015. Officials seized 201 animals.

Then, near the end of 2015, the Alberta SPCA helped seize 41 Shih Tzus.

"These animals came to us in horrendous condition," recalled Thompson. "They hadn't seen a vet that we were aware of. They had ingrown nails, their hair was so matted, they were covered in feces — these animals were basically there to produce puppies to sell to the public."

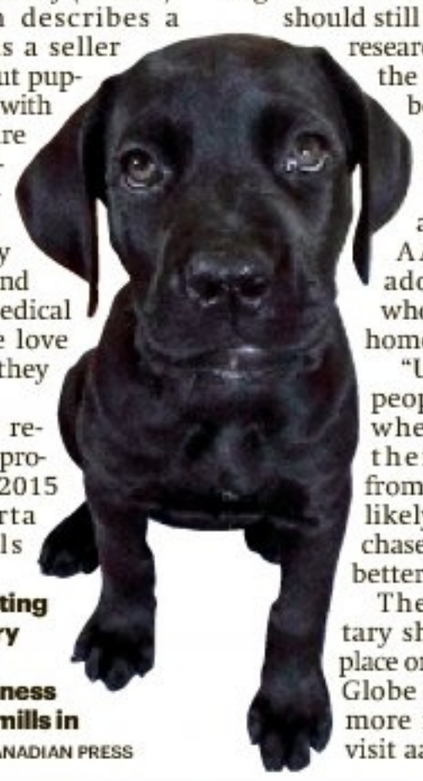
Thompson said the activity of puppy mills in the province comes down to consumer demand. Potential buyers need more education, and need to consider where their puppy is coming from before they buy it.

Thompson said just because the buyer tells them it's coming from a nice home, they should still do their own research into where the puppies were born, and how their parents are.

Or, visit a centre like AARCS and adopt a puppy who is without a home.

"Ultimately, if people look into where they get their animals from, they're very likely not to purchase if they know better."

The documentary showing takes place on May 1, at the Globe Cinema. For more information, visit aarcs.ca.



AARCS is hosting a documentary screening to spread awareness about puppy mills in Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL UNITY

Cool it on pipeline debate, Notley urges

The premier of Alberta says she has no interest in turning the current pipeline debate into an interprovincial shouting match that strains national unity.

Rachel Notley said she intends to have a respectful conversation based on the facts, allowing both sides of the issue to feel like they've been heard.

Ongoing pipeline proposals have caused tension with neighbouring B.C., become a hot topic for the Parti Quebecois and prompted Saskatchewan's premier to express annoyance with Quebec. Notley said she'll avoid finger-pointing.

"Canada is a collection of provinces. Historically some people play that feature off against one another. I don't think that's typically resulted in progress," she said in an interview Thursday.

"It is not in any way, shape or form the appropriate frame for this conversation. And we're not going to do that with it."

The National Energy Board has just announced that a review into the biggest of the ongoing pipeline projects, TransCanada's Energy East, should be completed by March 2018 after consultations with communities along the route; amid vocal opposition in Quebec, the provincial government there has agreed to conduct a separate review. Notley said the conversation should be based on facts — about safety, the environment and the economy.

"Those communities have a right to ask those questions. We're not going to question their right — or fight with them over their right. That doesn't help engage in conversation — suggesting they're not allowed to have it," she said.

Notley made the remarks during a trip to Washington, where pipelines are not high on her agenda this week. She's actually in the U.S. to help spread the word about her government's climate-change plan.

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Peeple is up and running on Apple products, but now the company wants to get it to Android devices. BRODIE THOMAS / METRO

Peeple takes to the people

CROWDFUNDING

Controversial ratings app looking to get on Androids

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's Peeple app is looking for a bit of help getting on to the Android platform.

The app stirred international controversy before it was even developed. It allows people to rate other people, not unlike apps that allow users to rate services or products. The idea was met with near universal derision in September.

Now that Peeple is up and running on Apple's IOS platform, creator Julia Cordray wants to get it on Android phones.

In proper 21st-century fashion, she's trying to raise the cash through crowdfunding instead of the usual investor channels.

Cordray said she's always talking to investors, but she has found crowdfunding is good for marketing and it helps users feel included.

The ask on Indiegogo is for $100,000 in the next three months. In return, backers who contribute certain benchmarks will get gifts such as invites to a Stampede party, exclusive web updates, or a stuffed animal.

As of Thursday afternoon, the campaign had raised $237 from eight backers.

Cordray is happy with uptake of the app.

"We have over 19,000 users — that's in Canada, in the U.S. And we're gaining about 60 new users a day, and that's without even advertising," she said.

Ray DePaul, director of Mount Royal University's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said crowdfunding is a novel and proven way to raise money for a product.

"Crowdfunding is really about building community," he said. "People who back these campaigns — they aren't in this for financial reward."

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In search of faster internet

How fast is the internet in your province? A new study by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority shows Internet speeds are typically much faster in Eastern Canada.

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you're looking for faster internet in Canada, head east.

A report released Thursday by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) shows a marked disparity between the speed and quality of internet access in eastern and western cities.

Boasting an average download speed of 22.3 megabits per second, Toronto topped the list, followed by Ottawa and Montreal. In contrast, Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg all landed in the bottom half of the rankings.

CIRA president Byron Holland said it's difficult to pinpoint exactly why Toronto is a better place to Netflix-and-chill than Edmonton, but he suspects the presence of internet exchange points (IXPs) plays a role.

IXPs allow internet service providers (ISPs) to connect with each other and major content providers, like Google or Netflix, for example, to ensure faster connections between their networks. The country's largest IXP is located in Toronto, while those in cities like Calgary and Vancouver are just getting off the ground, Holland said.

"If you're in a city that doesn't have an IXP, then any internet net transactions you make, chances are they'll have to travel quite a distance before they get back to you," he said.

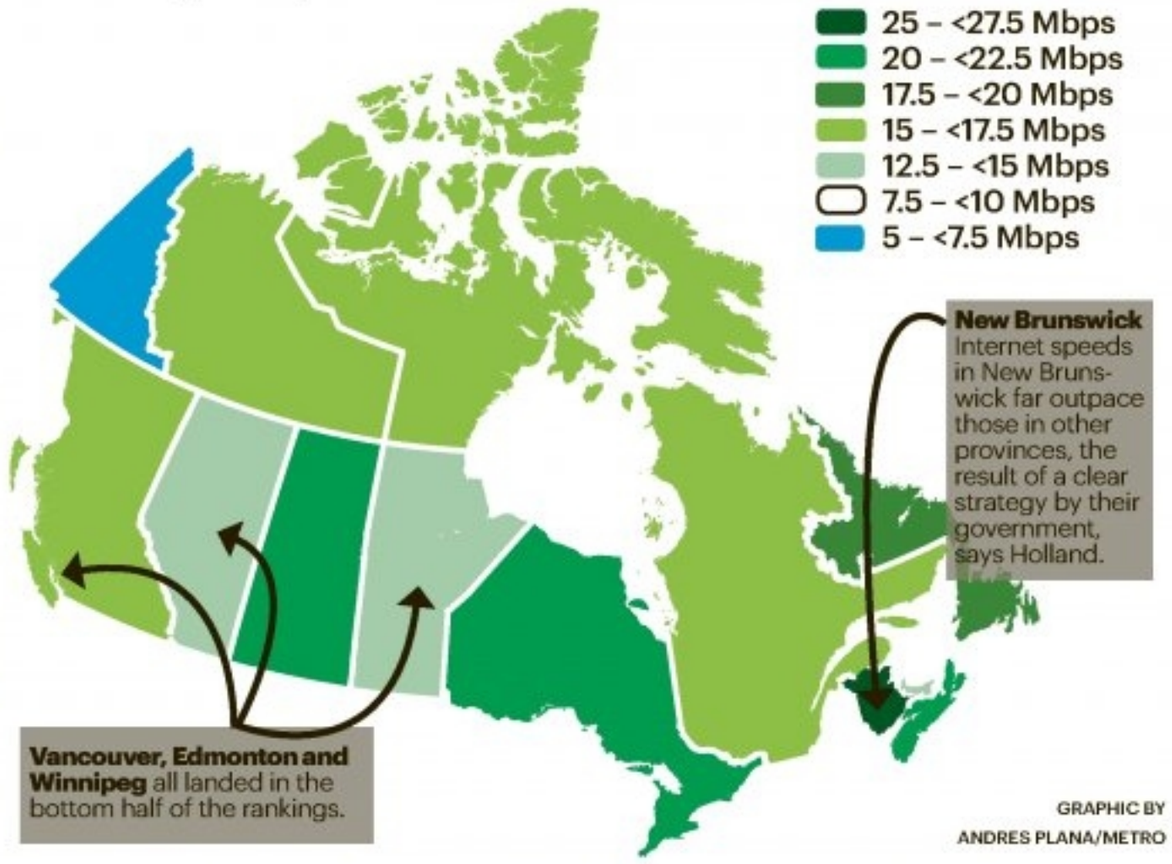
Rather than stoke western alienation, Holland hopes the results of the study will encourage residents in areas with poorer online performance to demand better from ISPs and the government.

Among the study's other findings was that internet speeds in rural and northern Canada were 25 per cent slower than those in urban areas.

"It really demonstrates that people in rural communities are being left behind," said Fenwick McKelvey, a Concordia University professor who studies internet performance.

McKelvey said it's incumbent on the federal Liberals to create a national broadband policy to address disparities in internet quality and access.

"Prime Minister Justin Trudeau loves to talk about quantum computing, but he hasn't spoken much about everyday computing," he said.



GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

TECHNOLOGY

Are you living in the fast lane?

Which cities have the best internet in Canada? CIRA has ranked them all, listed from first to last. Is your city featured here?

- Toronto
- Ottawa
- Montreal
- Fredericton
- Saint John
- Quebec City
- London
- St John's
- Mississauga
- Brampton
- Calgary
- Hamilton
- Halifax
- Markham
- Gatineau
- Longueuil
- Burnaby
- Charlottetown
- Vancouver
- Victoria
- Edmonton
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INCLUSIVENESS

Library's new code of conduct could be discriminatory: Group

People look at books at a public library in Kingston Ont. Thursday. The library has a new code of conduct, which critics say isn't inclusive for everyone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A new code of conduct that warns foul-smelling patrons or those "lingering aimlessly" won't be tolerated at the Kingston, Ont., public library may not stand.

A group called Libraries are for Everyone says that while the new rules don't explicitly bar homeless or poor people from using the library, they will have that effect.

Group spokeswoman Nancy Jones says a motion to defer implementation on the code and invite public consultation was passed Wednesday evening at a meeting of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library board.

Libraries are for Everyone says the guidelines "may do more to stigmatize and marginalize some of the most vulnerable library patrons."

The library board has defended the policy, which came to the public's attention a few weeks ago.

The board is reaching out to shelters, police and mental health support to ensure that patrons whose needs exceed library services are directed to the appropriate organization, the statement says.

But Libraries are for Everyone says excluding people won't help.

Among the new guidelines is a note that "offensive body odour and/or offensive clothing/bag odour will not be tolerated," and that patrons must "limit the belongings" they bring inside.

"Loitering or sleeping is not permitted on library premises. Loitering is defined as sitting or standing idly about; lingering aimlessly without using library services, regular and/or prolonged attendance at the library without using library services."

Libraries are for Everyone says those references, in particular, "could discriminate against shelter users and other people in precarious housing situations or suffering mental ill health."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shelters at capacity

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Women being turned away due to space crunch

A new report says women are crossing provincial borders to escape domestic violence — and many are being turned away from shelters that are full or overcrowded.

The third annual Shelter Voices survey from the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses says eight of 10 shelters in the country have taken in a woman from a neighbouring province in the last year.

234

The number of shelters that had to turn away women.

Those women will often go to another province for help to put as much geographical distance as possible between themselves and an abusive partner or sometimes to be closer to family. They may then have to go to a shelter because relatives don't have space or resources to take them in.

Many find it difficult to find a spot in shelters, some of which are running at or over capacity.

The report says that on one day last year, 234 shelters had to turn away 305 women and children — almost three-quarters of the women and children seeking shelter that day — because there was no space.

"The number of women being turned away is way beyond acceptable," said Lise Martin, the network's executive director.

Martin said the findings reinforce the need for a national action plan on violence against women to ensure there are comparable levels of service across provinces and territories.

Statistics Canada's most recent report on domestic violence shelters found there were 12,058 spaces in 2014, up about five per cent from the 11,461 available in 2010. Promised federal spending in the sector would likely double that expansion rate in two years.

The federal budget promised $89.9 million over two years to create or renovate 3,000 spaces. If half the money went to new spaces, it would mean two new shelters for every province.

The money will move through provinces and territories under yet-to-be signed agreements with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., which already oversees a shelter improvement fund targeting on-reserve services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

A sticky situation

Quebec beekeeper Jean-Marc Labonte said on Thursday that he's in a sticky situation after thieves buzzed off with about five million of his bees. The bees and hives are worth about $200,000, he said. As of Thursday no arrests have been made. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A girl's best friends

An Alberta girl who got lost in the bush says her dogs kept her warm during the chilly night. Sgt. Barry LaRocque says police searched all night, and this morning the girl, along with three larger dogs, emerged form a bush a few kilometres from home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Serbia Merkel seeks Germany

REFUGEES

Newborn baby represents dreams for better life

A baby named Serbia Merkel Al Mustafa sleeps in the "Krnjaca" collective centre, in Belgrade, Serbia on Thursday. Serbia for the country where she was born just a few days ago, Merkel for the German leader where her Syrian refugee parents want to go. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She has wide brown eyes, rosy cheeks and thick black hair. Her name is Serbia Merkel al-Mustafa.

Serbia for the country where she was born just a few days ago, Merkel for the leader of Germany, where her Syrian refugee parents want to go in their desperate attempt to escape the war at home.

The al-Mustafa family is among hundreds of refugees stuck in Serbia after Austria and several Balkan nations shut their borders to migrants this winter. But the route that saw one million people reach Western Europe last year seems to be picking up in pace once again — and the family of four has high hopes of reaching their dream location soon.

"Inshallah, we will be in Germany one day," Jaafar, the proud father, said Thursday as he caressed his tiny daughter's cheeks inside a cramped room with bunk beds at a drab refugee camp near Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

"We walked across mountains, nearly drowned in the rough seas," Jaafar said, holding the baby as mother Rasmyah tenderly watched after leaving a Belgrade maternity hospital just a day before. "Nothing will stop us now."

Serbia Merkel is just one of many who have been born during the largest exodus into Europe since World War II. And she is not the only one named after Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, for her welcoming policies toward migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Serbia Merkel and her family are among hundreds of migrants stuck in Serbia after the closure of the Balkan route for passage to more prosperous European nations. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But since the closure of the Balkan migration route and a European Union deal with Turkey to deport some migrants back there, things have gone sour for the migrants. Thousands have been stuck in Greece, many camping in appalling conditions on the border with Macedonia, and thousands more have been forced to turn to human traffickers.

Jaafar al-Mustafa, a 27-year-old who walks with a metal cane, thinks Macedonian police let them into the country from Greece because they felt pity for the family that also included 20 month-old Sarah and his heavily pregnant wife, 23-year-old Rasmyah.

"We have walked most of the way to Serbia," he said. "My wife started getting pains while walking. Lucky we made it to here before she started giving birth."

The migrants stuck in Serbia, including many children, are trying to figure out how to proceed deeper into Europe. Most hope to cross into Hungary and then Austria, despite those governments' tough stances toward refugees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Casualties mount in Aleppo

Airstrikes and artillery killed more than 60 people in the past 24 hours in Aleppo, including dozens at a hospital in a rebel-held neighbourhood, as Syria's largest city was turned once again into a major battleground in the civil war, officials said Thursday.

Aid agencies warn that Aleppo is on the brink of a humanitarian disaster with the collapse of a two-month cease-fire and stalled peace talks.

The intensified violence — by far the worst since the partial cease-fire began — coincides with reports of a military build-up outside Aleppo that many fear is a prelude for a government attempt to force a complete siege of the city's neighbourhoods.

Battle-hardened residents were shocked by the bloodshed. Opposition activists accused the government of carpet-bombing rebel-controlled areas, while Syrian state media said more than 1,000 mortar rounds and rockets were fired at government-held districts, killing 22 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Philippines may be facing Daesh threat

TERRORISM

Abu Sayyaf raising fears among many

Months before Abu Sayyaf militants beheaded retired Canadian mining executive John Ridsdel in the tropical jungles of the southern Philippines, they showed him pleading for life in a video with three other hostages that demanded a record-high ransom.

The scene was all too familiar in a Southeast Asian nation that has struggled with ransom kidnappings by Daesh for years, except for two things.

In the video that appeared in November, two black flags with Daesh symbols were displayed by the heavily armed Abu Sayyaf fighters in the backdrop of lush foliage. Then after a deadline for ransom lapsed on Monday, they killed the 68-year-old Ridsdel — instead of waiting patiently for the money as the mostly impoverished rural fighters have done in the past.

> Even as it poses as a group of Islamic freedom fighters, the Abu Sayyaf has behaved as criminals.
> President Benigno Aquino III

Shocked by the outcome, many in the largest Roman Catholic nation in Asia are asking if this is the same band of militants the government has long dismissed as ransom-seeking bandits. Or has the Philippines fallen into a growing list of countries that are now grappling with the spread of influence from Daesh in Syria and Iraq?

The Philippine government has insisted Daesh still has no presence in the country's south, homeland of minority Muslims who rose up to seek a separate state in the early 1970s.

In his first remarks following Ridsdel's killing, President Benigno Aquino III, whose term ends in two months, gave a history of the Abu Sayyaf's brutal attacks, describing it as a group of outlaws.

A major offensive is believed to have killed about 14 Abu Sayyaf militants in southern Sulu province this week, the military said.

"Even as it poses as a group of Islamic freedom fighters, the Abu Sayyaf has behaved as criminals focused on enriching themselves by taking hostages for ransom," Aquino said, describing them as opportunists who want to "align themselves with (Daesh) to gain access to the funds and resources of (Daesh)."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump's claims that Hillary Clinton is playing "the woman's card" is drawing intense backlash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Trump mocked over 'woman's card'

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's claim that Hillary Clinton is playing "the woman's card" has drawn intense backlash, from the Democratic front-runner herself as well as tens of thousands of critics on social media.

"If fighting for women's health care and paid family leave and equal pay is playing the 'woman card,' then deal me in," Clinton said in Philadelphia as she celebrated wins in four out of five of Tuesday's Democratic primaries.

> If fighting for women's health care is playing the 'woman card,' then deal me in
> Hillary Clinton

Trump had levelled the "woman's card" accusation Tuesday after his own five-state primary sweep.

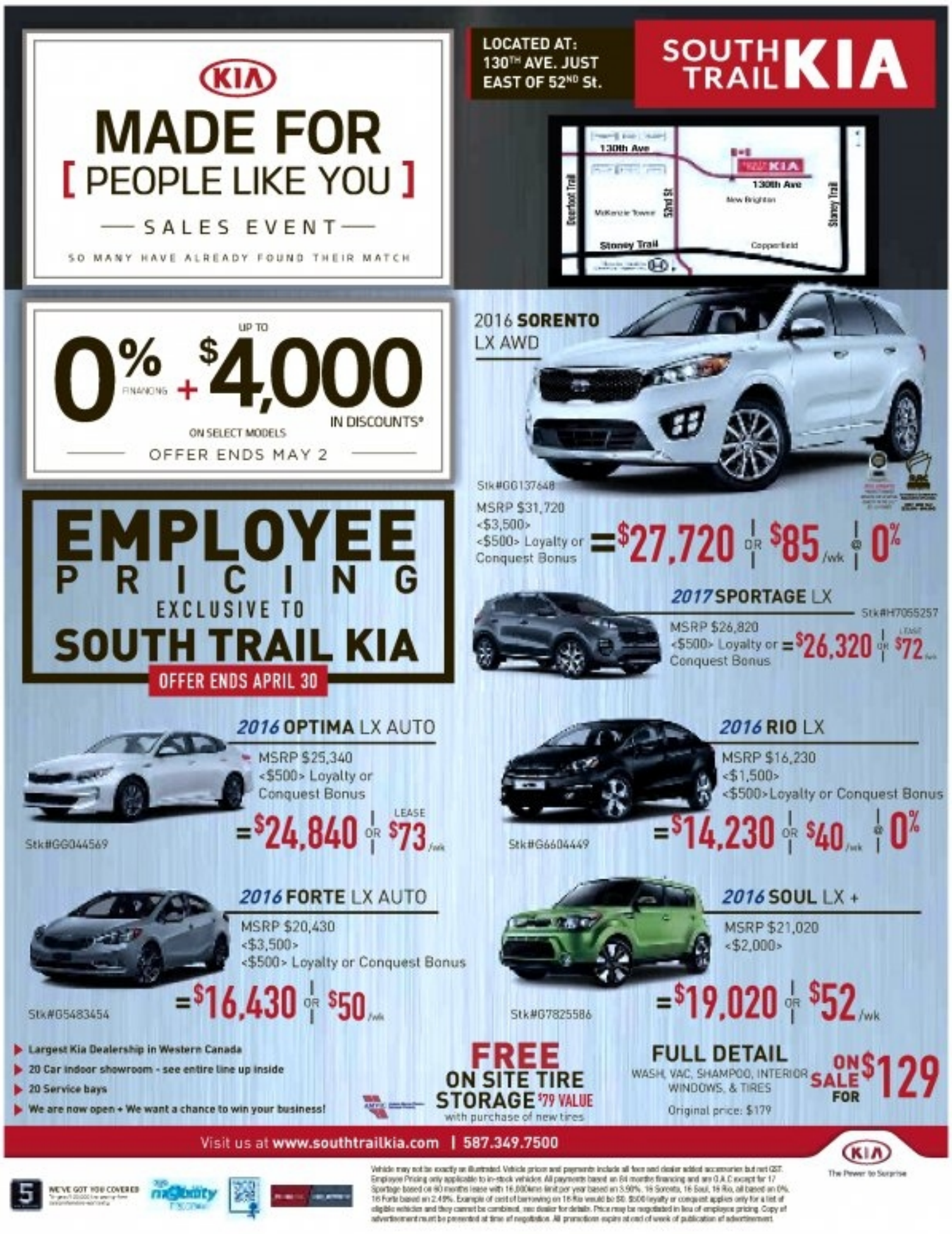
"She's playing that card like I've never seen anyone play it before," Trump said on NBC's "Today" Thursday. "All I'm doing is bringing out the obvious, that without the woman's card, Hillary would not even be a viable person to even run for a city council position."

Trump's remarks prompted social media hashtags like #dealmein and #womancard, the latter ranking among the top 10 global trending topics on Twitter Wednesday, with more than 45,000 tweets by late afternoon.

Voters also circulated video of Mary Pat Christie, the wife of Trump backer and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who stood behind Trump during his victory speech Tuesday and looked as though she was rolling her eyes as he made those comments.

The exchange highlights Trump's perilous standing among female voters who could help propel Clinton to the White House.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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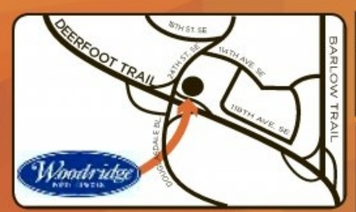

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Tablet sales are tanking

TECHNOLOGY

But devices still remain popular among consumers

Consumers have officially fallen out of love with tablets and are having their heads turned by larger smartphones and more powerful 2-in-1 devices instead.

Everyone laughed when Microsoft unveiled the first Surface Pro and claimed that the future was in touchscreen PCs, not tablets. But the latest data from Strategy Analytics, published Thursday, shows that Microsoft was clearly on to something.

In the first quarter of 2016, global tablet sales fell a further 10 percent. Just 46.5 million devices were shipped — the lowest recorded amount in more than three years. Apple, Samsung and Lenovo have all seen the popularity of their devices slide, yet at the same time, devices running Windows are on the upswing.

Shipments grew 82 per cent year-on-year and now these tablets — essentially touchscreen PCs — have a 13 percent market share, which is impressive considering that the iPad's share is currently 22 percent.

On Wednesday, IDC's latest figures regarding the health of the global smartphone market showed that popularity is still growing — 334.9 million devices were shipped during the first quarter of 2016 — but at a slower rate.

IDC attributes it to saturation. The smartphone is officially ubiquitous and the typical handset now sports a display on par with a compact tablet. This move from phone to phablet is also helping to make the traditional tablet obsolete as a device.

46.5M

The number of devices shipped in the first quarter of 2016. This is the lowest amount recorded in more than three years.

But, according to Strategy Analytics, there is still life in the tablet market when it comes to premium devices like the iPad Pro and the Surface Pro.

"The key for Apple and major Android and Windows vendors will be how aggressively they pursue the enterprise and prosumer markets with their 2-in-1 Tablets, which is still a growing segment," said Peter King, Strategy Analytics Research Director, Tablet & Touchscreen Strategies service.

The company believes that consumers and companies alike are going to start snapping up 2-in-1s and hybrid devices, but that means that notebook PCs are going to be shunned instead. AFP

In the first quarter of 2016, global tablet sales fell a further 10 percent. However, there is hope in the form of 2-in-1 devices and hybrids. ISTOCK

GAMING

Age of consoles may be numbered

Sony may be back in profit thanks to strong demand for its latest-generation PlayStation and its assorted games. However, the days of the dedicated games console look to be numbered.

The majority of U.S. and European homes currently have a PlayStation or Xbox nestling under the television but according to Parks Associates, fewer than 50 per cent of US homes will still have one by 2019.

"Game consoles remain one of the key elements of the connected home, but other devices are gaining importance, including smart TVs and streaming media players," said Brett Sappington, Senior Research Director, Parks Associates.

Gaming has never been more popular among consumers of all ages and genders. However, people are becoming more and more likely to reach for a smartphone or even the controller for a set top box. According to Flurry Analytics, the average smartphone owner spends 33 minutes a day just on gaming. AFP

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Jacob Carver

Take notice that on the **16th day of May 2016 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **May 10, 2007.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

INNOVATION

See Mars with NASA's 360° view

Take a look around Mars through the eyes of a space rover using a 360° video that NASA has published online.

The two-minute video provides 360° views of the Martian landscape, featuring footage taken on April 4 by the Mast camera atop NASA's Curiosity rover, which first landed on the planet in 2012.

A press release explains what viewers see before them: "The scenes show wind-sculpted textures in the sandstone bedrock close to the rover, and Gale Crater's rim rising above the crater floor in the distance. Mount Sharp stands in the middle of the crater, which is about 96 miles (154 kilometres) in diameter."

The rover is now heading back towards a lake-deposited mudstone surface 4.7 miles away to learn more about Mars' microbial history. AFP

Curiosity rover films 360° view of Mars. NASA/JPL-CALTECH/MSSS

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8	5	6	9	1	4	7	2	3
4	7	2	6	5	3	9	8	1
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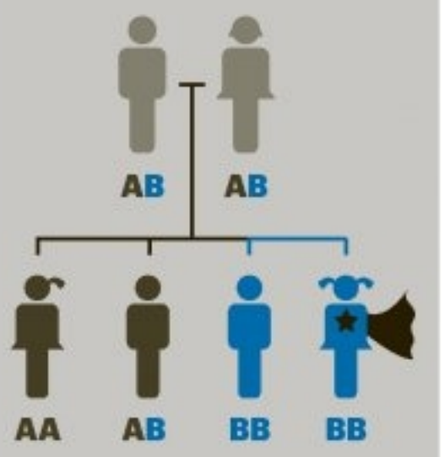
SNEAKY SELFIES
Motion-sensor cameras are being set up around the world to peek at what animals do when no people are around.

DECODED Genetic superheroes

THE MUTANTS LIVE AMONG US

Forget the X-Men. There are real-life superheroes (two kinds!) all around us. Some have genes that give them special powers to rival The Avengers. Others have mutations that should have given them ghastly diseases, but they're fine. **Why? No one knows (yet)**. But these freaks of nature — in the best sense — might hold the keys to treating some of the trickiest medical conditions we know of.

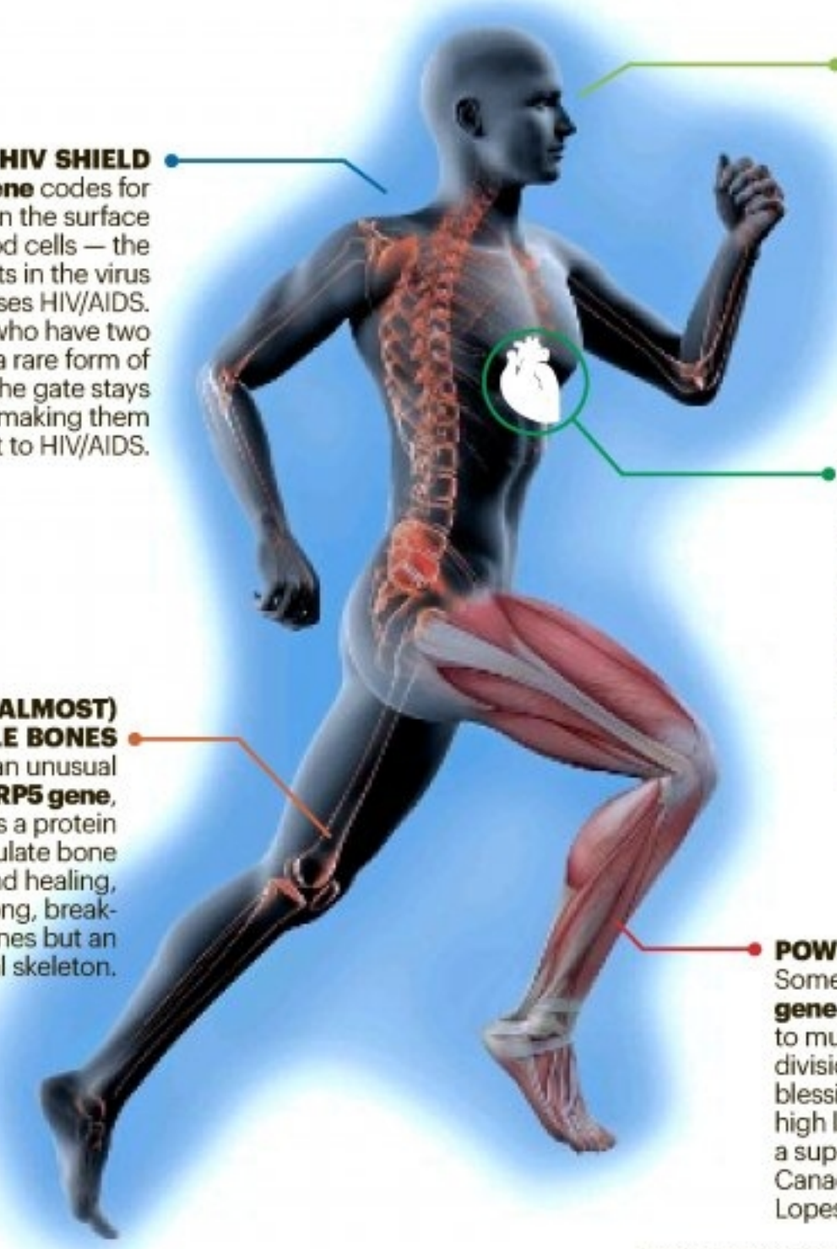
13 MYSTERY MUTANTS



Researchers sifted through the **DNA profiles of 589,306 people** and cross-referenced them with medical records. After checking and re-checking, they found 13 people who had the genes for severe genetic disorders but no disease.

Consider the family above: Both parents are carriers of the lung disease cystic fibrosis (CF). One of their children got both the bad (**B**) genes and therefore CF. Another kid got the exact same genes but is perfectly healthy.

Nobody knows how these superhumans pulled this off, but scientists think some might have another mutation that counteracts the first.



HIV SHIELD
The **CCR5 gene** codes for a protein on the surface of white blood cells — the gate that lets in the virus that causes HIV/AIDS. In people who have two copies of a rare form of this gene, the gate stays closed — making them resistant to HIV/AIDS.

(ALMOST) UNBREAKABLE BONES
People with an unusual change to the **LRP5 gene**, which creates a protein that helps regulate bone development and healing, have super-strong, break-resistant bones but an otherwise normal skeleton.

SUPER-COLOUR VISION
Several genes on the X-chromosome code for light-sensitive proteins in the cone cells of our eyes. A few women with a mutation that causes them to have an extra type of cone might be able to distinguish colours the rest of us can't.

LONG LIFE
It's theoretical at this point, but a small group of people who lived to a ripe old age with very few health problems share a rare form of the **COL25A1 gene**, which is involved in the development of the brain plaques that plague people with Alzheimer's.

POWERFUL MUSCLES
Some changes to the **LMNA gene** cause devastating changes to muscle development and cell division. But one mutation is a mixed blessing: it can cause dangerously high levels of blood fats but also a super-lean, muscled physique. Canadian Olympic hurdler Priscilla Lopes-Schliep famously has this trait.

SOURCE: NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY, 04/11/2016; CELL, 04/21/2016
GRAPHIC: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

FINDINGS
Your week in science

ROAD RAGE RESEARCH
Psychiatrists at McGill University have found that incorrigible drunk drivers and serial speeders have different personalities and hormonal responses to stress than people who pass politely on the highway.

AMAZING AMAZON
Where the mouth of the mighty Amazon river meets the Atlantic lies a previously unexplored underwater world. It's a coral reef system with "the most amazing and colourful animals," according to study author Patricia Yager — and it's already under threat from ocean acidification and oil exploration.

SOUND SMART

PRION DISEASE

DEFINITION
Prions are rogue proteins that take on an abnormal shape and force other, healthy proteins to do the same, leading to **prion diseases**. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (**mad cow disease**) is a contagious prion disease.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
"Some reindeer in Bruce's herd are looking very thin. I hope they haven't got CWD, that contagious, fatal **prion disease** that has mysteriously broken out in Norway."

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Should I be scared of sunscreen?

How do I choose a relatively chemical-free sunscreen? — Anna, Winnipeg

Thank you for this question! This is my favourite topic ever!

First: All sunscreens contain chemicals (also, everything is a chemical). I know that what you mean is active ingredients.

Sunscreen protects against sun damage, and sun damage causes skin cancer. Just five bad sunburns in your teens increase your risk by 80 per cent. (Oops).

Maybe you always stay in the shade wearing a hat and a long shirt and pants over your swimsuit. No? Then every time you forego sunscreen, you take a risk.

So. Let's talk "chemicals."

Sunblocks (often marketed as "natural") contain nanoparticles of zinc or titanium. They're a bit pasty and they physically block sunlight. There's very little research on nanoparticles' health effects, but no indication that they're dangerous or unhealthy.

Conventional sunscreens contain chemicals that absorb UV light. Oxybenzone is the one people freak out about. There's not much research, but oxybenzone seems to disrupt sex hormones — at least, in rats that ate the equivalent of a 150-pound person drinking 10 bottles of SPF 60 sunscreen per day.

In a more realistic study, there was no significant difference in hormones among people who were slathered with concentrated oxybenzone cream for four days, compared to controls.

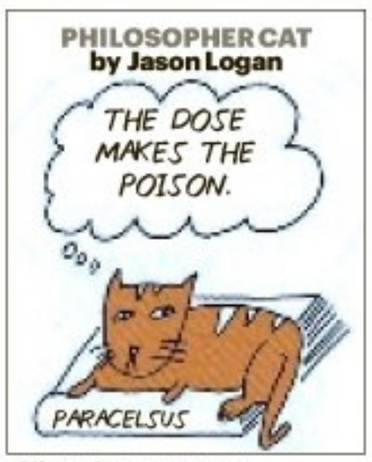
We don't know much about the long-term risks and benefits of sunscreen. Who remembers what kind of sunscreen, and how much, they were using in 1979?

Living scientifically is all about making the best choices we can with the evidence at hand.

I think the risk of skin cancer outweighs the hypothetical risks of chemicals. Just use sunscreen. It doesn't matter what kind.

Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan



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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION GOSSIP

Substance on top of a smile

CAREER

Julia Roberts' work shows she likes biting into meaty movie roles

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Julia Roberts is one of the biggest female movie stars of all time.

With a career box office north of $2 billion, she and her megawatt smile were the stuff of blockbusters throughout the '90s and early 2000s.

She was everywhere, and then, somewhere around the time Jennifer Lawrence was celebrating her 13th birthday, Roberts stepped away. Not completely, but she jumped off the Hollywood treadmill, doing what movie stars who have nothing left to prove do.

That is, whatever she wanted. She stayed out of view, voicing a couple of animated movies and popping up in the occasional film, some high profile — like the ensemble of Ocean's Twelve; some not, like Fireflies in the Garden — but the days of solo Pretty Woman-esque success were, by her own choosing, behind her.

By and large, her choices became a bit more eclectic as she relied less on the famous smile and more on flexing her acting muscles.

Since 2004's Closer her filmography has been splintered between crowd-pleasers like Eat Pray Love, dramas like August: Osage County and misfires like Secret in Their Eyes.

This weekend she's back working with Garry Marshall, the director who helped make her famous. She's starring in Mother's Day, her fourth collaboration.

The pair make a movie roughly every 10 years, from 1990's Pretty Woman to Runaway Bride in 1999 to 2010's Valentine's Day to this year's entry, and their combo usually delivers big box office.

In between the commercial films she makes with Marshall, Roberts makes a movie a year. While they haven't always connected with audiences, many are worth a look.

Duplicity is a romantic comedy about espionage. Imagine if Rock Hudson and Doris Day starred in Mission Impossible. Instead you have Roberts as an experienced CIA officer looking for a change and Clive Owen as a charming MI6 agent.

Both left the world of international intrigue for the infinitely more profitable task of corporate security. Together they launch an elaborate plan of corporate dirty tricks to steal a top-secret formula that will revolutionize the cosmetics industry.

Roberts and Owen are witty and charming and Duplicity, with its entertaining performances and stylish look, is a bit of fun despite its convoluted story.

August: Osage County, an all-star remounting of Tracey Letts's hit Broadway play, gives Roberts her juiciest role in years. As Barbara she's a bit of an enigma. She's a jumble of mixed, complicated emotions, capable of both great kindness and compassion but able only to express herself through tough love.

When she explodes she lets loose a lifetime of rage stemming from her mother's (played by Meryl Streep) mistreatment. When they go head-to-head it is the clash of the titans and an unforgettable scene.

Finally, there's Larry Crowne, a boomer comedy aimed at audiences with memories long enough to remember when gas only cost 54 cents a litre, none of your neighbours had foreclosure signs on their front lawns and Tom Hanks and Roberts ruled the box office.

It's an uplifting comedy about middle age, brave enough to tackle modern problems like downsizing and foreclosure, but non-challenging enough to weave all the bad stuff into a pseudo romantic comedy. Hanks and Roberts cut through the material like hot knives through butter and Julia treats audiences to one of her trademarked laughing scenes.

Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman, her first collaboration with Garry Marshall. She now stars in a new movie of his: Mother's Day. PRETTY WOMAN HANDOUT

> **Roberts jumped off the Hollywood treadmill, doing what movie stars who have nothing left to prove do.**

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Mother's Day	★★
Keanu	★★★
Ratchet & Clank	★★
Green Room	★★★★
Precious Cargo	★★

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Retread, remake, repress

SUMMER PREVIEW

Little stomach for risk-taking among pricey blockbusters

Hollywood's summer, which kicks off with the fittingly combative Captain America: Civil War, will be a season of struggle: for box office, for originality and for opportunity.

More than ever, the big tent of summer moviegoing is held up by a forest of tent poles stretching from May to August. The swelling size of the summer movie has turned the season into a game of survival. The possibility of bombing lurks as an ever-present threat, testosterone often dominates in front of and (especially) behind the camera, and few non-sequel, non-reboot films dare to compete.

Box office and stress levels run high in equal measure.

"It's a different landscape than 2002 when the first Bourne movie came out," says Matt Damon, who returns to the franchise in Paul Greengrass' Jason Bourne on July 29. "It's like a high-stakes poker game that I don't want to be in. The swings are just so brutal. Ben (Affleck) just opened Batman v Superman a few weeks ago. Everyone around him and in his life was nervous about it."

This season is particularly risk-adverse. Out of the 33 films coming from the major studios, only 12 aren't a sequel, reboot or based on an already popular property, such as a video game or bestseller. Take comedy and horror out of the equation and you're left with just a handful of originals.

One of them is Jodie Foster's Money Monster on May 13, a thriller about a brash financial news pundit taken hostage on the air, starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

A scene from Independence Day: Resurgence, opening in theaters on June 24. 20TH CENTURY FOX

Julia Roberts in Money Monster, opening May 13. SONY PICTURES

From left: Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones in Ghostbusters, opening July 15. COLUMBIA PICTURES

Foster's film is doubly rare. She's one of only two female filmmakers helming major studio releases this summer. Though equality remains a year-round issue, the constricted summer months can reveal Hollywood at its most retrograde.

"It's interesting to me that the studio system still sees women as a risk," says Foster, who wonders if women ultimately even want to inherit some of the kinds of films that dominate the summer.

"There are movies that are part of the system we may not be that interested in embracing. I think that more women in the film business will look slightly different than it's looked in the past for men."

Paul Feig's Ghostbusters reboot, coming July 15, stars four of the funniest comedic performers around: Melissa McCarthy, Kristin Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones. With that lineup, Feig relishes heading into "the big guns of summer."

"To put out a movie like this in the heart of tentpole season when it's all these big movies out there, I find it very exciting because a lot of these movies are very male driven, even though they have some great female characters in them," Feig says.

> **"It's like a high-stakes poker game that I don't want to be in.**
> Matt Damon

This summer includes a number of anticipated sequels (Finding Dory, Star Trek Beyond, Alice Through the Looking Glass), the expected superhero films (Civil War, Suicide Squad, X-Men: Apocalypse) and some less-likely resurrections (The Legend of Tarzan, Ben-Hur, Independence Day: Resurgence). Recent history is clear: These will be among the summer's biggest hits. Last summer (the second-biggest ever with nearly $4.5 billion in box office), seven of the top 10 movies were remakes, sequels or came from a comic book. Ditto for four of the top five movies so far in 2016.

One much smaller film, Life, Animated on July 8, will hope to sway moviegoers from the blockbusters while simultaneously reminding them of the power of movies.

The documentary, directed by Roger Ross Williams, is about an autistic young man, Owen Suskind, who found language through his love of Disney animated classics.

"It's rare that you create a film like this that generations can enjoy together," says Williams. "In the summer this is an alternative where families can go together and see it and hopefully be inspired and uplifted."

To be uplifted rather than pummeled at summer theatres would indeed be a radical change of pace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In BFG, Rylance takes on a new role

SUMMER RELEASE

Actor teams with Spielberg for trio of films

The first time Steven Spielberg offered a role to Mark Rylance, the actor said "No." That was 30 years ago for Empire of the Sun. Now, Rylance can't stop saying yes.

Fresh off their Oscar-winning collaboration on Bridge of Spies, Spielberg and Rylance have booked not just another film together, but a trio of them.

Along with joining the cast of Spielberg's Ready Player One, a science-fiction thriller due out next year, Rylance has signed up to star as Pope Pius IX in the Tony Kushner-scripted The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara.

But first, Rylance stars in The BFG (out July 1), Spielberg's adaption of the Roald Dahl classic. Rylance plays the titular Big Friendly Giant in a motion capture performance that the actor promises will impress in its technological wizardry.

"That's the big leap forward in this film," says Rylance, whose character befriends an orphan girl, played in live action by Ruby Barnhill. "The trickery of it will be hidden. But make no mistake, the trickery was incredible."

Before Bridge of Spies and PBS's Wolf Hall, Rylance was known primarily as arguably the greatest stage actor and Shakespeare interpreter of his generation. His commitment to theatre remains (he recently finished a run of Nice Fish, a play based on Louis Jenkins poetry, in Brooklyn) but his newest role is as Spielberg regular.

"It comes from him because obviously I'm not in a place to offer him work," Rylance says, chuckling. "It makes me a little nervous that I'll fail him at some point! But at the moment it's quite enjoyable."

Rylance says he relishes becoming a member of Spielberg's community, which includes other mainstays like composer John Williams, cinematographer Janusz Kaminski and the late Melissa Mathison, who penned the screenplay to The BFG. Rylance believes Spielberg may be eager for a company of actors, too.

"Because I was doing 'Nice Fish' and busy in New York, at first I contemplated not going to the Academy Awards because I'd have to miss some performances," he says. "But I thought, well, I'll ask Steven what he feels about it. He said it would mean a lot to him if I went. He's only ever had one other actor win an award in one of his films: Daniel Day-Lewis in the Lincoln film. I think he feels there is a slight opinion that he's not an actor's director. I don't have that opinion, quite the contrary. But I think he feels he's known more for other aspects of filmmaking."

Essential to the making of The BFG was having the two stars together in the same room, despite their characters being separated by scale in the motion capture process.

"There was no camera. There was no lighting apart from the general state. There were no marks to hit," Rylance says. "It was like doing a play in a small theatre studio where the audience is all around you. Steven, who wasn't (electronically) suited up, could stand right next to us on the set, which he often did, laughing and looking at us."

> **The trickery of it will be hidden. But make no mistake, the trickery was incredible**
>
> Actor Mark Rylance

The 56-year-old Rylance is used to being part of some of the most celebrated plays in London's West End and on Broadway, but his newfound prominence in Hollywood is novel. He's soon to begin shooting Christopher Nolan's WWII film Dunkirk.

At his first Oscars, he went home a winner, all the while with a bemused but gracious attitude about the affair.

"It was fascinating to go through for the first time," says Rylance. "I don't think it's any kind of true reckoning of the quality of anything, so it was a little sad to me that the African American community put such stock into it as a way of determining their worth. I don't think any artist should be determining their worth on those things." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruby Barnhill portraying Sophie, right, appears in a scene with the Big Friendly Giant, voiced by Mark Rylance in The BFG. DISNEY

GETTY IMAGES

Coppola happy to be an eternal film student

INTERVIEW

Director talks TCM honour, what might be his last movie

Francis Ford Coppola will press his hands and feet into the cement outside the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on Friday, but his imprint on Hollywood, the movies and American culture has long been set in stone, even if the chameleonic writer-director remains perpetually in flux. The ceremony will be part of the TCM Classic Movie Film Festival, which kicks off Thursday in Los Angeles and runs through Sunday. The festival, put on by that great cable outpost of commercial-less cinema, Turner Classic Movies, will fill four days with screenings of classic films, including Coppola's own The Conversation.

Such honours are self-evident for Coppola, the director of The Godfather trilogy and Apocalypse Now. But the 77-year-old Coppola doesn't often pause for tributes; he's too busy working.

After a long break from the director's chair, he's made three idiosyncratic and exploratory films in the last decade (Youth Without Youth, Tetro, Twixt), none of which are the kind of films expected of filmmakers in their later years.

He's also for several years been working on an even more experimental and ambitious film, Distant Vision, a multi-generation saga about an Italian-American family. Ring a bell? But Coppola, more interested in the future than the past, wants to make it in what he calls "live cinema."

That was one of things Coppola discussed in a recent interview where the director also assessed his robust life in cinema as an eternal student. "For me now, I have no motive other than to enjoy the thrill of learning about the cinema," he says, "and being able to participate in it."

Are you a fan of TCM?
I love TCM. It's an oasis on television. For one thing, it's uninterrupted and no commercials and they bring some of the greatest movies ever made to your screen. TCM has a lot of devotees, so of course it's an honour for them to single me out.

When you reflect on your career, one of such chapters, what do you see?
I always thought of myself, or charged myself, to be searching and to be somewhat experimental. I didn't just make one style of movie and then just stick with that. Every film I made I approached differently according its theme. Whereas the Godfather films that I'm probably best known for had a certain classic, Shakespearean style, Apocalypse Now was totally different. Almost a different person made it. One From the Heart was yet another experiment and Rumble Fish was another. I always was trying to learn about cinema by approaching it experimentally and trying to uncover what it was that really connected with me. And I'm still doing it at age 77. I'm still trying to look at it from the standpoint of: What can I learn?

You've frequently gone back and tweaked your films, like One From the Heart and The Outsiders.
I recently did that with The Cotton Club. The Cotton Club was sort of made on the battlefield between the various people who put up the money and the producer (Robert Evans). At the time, they looked at it and said, "Oh, there's too many black people in it. Can we cut out some of the tap dancing and put the emphasis less on the black people in the story?" I happened to have a Betamax very rough copy of what the movie had been before all that happened. I realized the movie had been 35 minutes longer. Much of the film had been lost, but through hook and crook, I was able to put it back together.

Are you finding any more freedom today?
It's a tough time for more elderly film directors who don't necessarily want to just do an HBO film on some historical subject and certainly they're not going to do a Marvel Comics film. So I'm thrilled that I'm in a position to search for what the possibilities are. I do feel it's a pity that the concept of performance has been lost. That basically since the invention of the phonograph and the cinema that all our art forms are canned. By live cinema, I don't mean like in the form of a television version of a play. I mean cinema, still, with the rules and language of cinema but performed live. That could be very thrilling.

You famously risked just about everything you had on Apocalypse Now. Do you lament today's risk-adverse Hollywood?
You can neither make beautiful, great movies without risk as you can make babies without sex. Risk is part of the artistic process. That's why I like performance, because performance is walking a high wire.

You've said Distant Vision might be your last film. Is that true?
Only because it's so long. The script of the overall project is over 500 pages now, so that's like six movies. But I want to do it live, maybe quarterly, maybe every three months do another hour and a half of it — in theatres, at home, anywhere, everywhere.

What recent films have inspired you?
Mostly it's in the independent field because the films with the budgets are pretty much all remakes of themselves. There was a film out of Canada I saw called Mommy — I thought was great. There was a film, Tangerine, that was a beautiful film. So moving and funny and alive. I loved Sarah Polley's documentary called Stories We Tell.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **Risk is part of the artistic process. That's why I like performance, because performance is walking a high wire.** Francis Ford Coppola

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AMVIC

Tension thrived on Green Room set

Patrick Stewart, centre, in a scene from Green Room. TIFF/THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

OPENING FRIDAY

'Potent' world of gory thriller brought crew person to tears

Trapped inside the tiny set of Green Room, seven actors were slowly losing their minds as they stared at the carnage before them.

One cast member was writhing on the floor in agony while the others paced the space, which doubled as the cramped backstage of a neo-Nazi club.

Blood was pouring everywhere and the tension was becoming so thick the film's script supervisor broke down in tears.

"That world is so potent," says actor Anton Yelchin, reflecting on the experience of making the gritty thriller with a small film crew.

"There's 15 people in an enclosed room with smoke pumped into it. It's very emotionally draining."

Yelchin — known for his role as Chekov in the latest Star Trek movies — was at the centre of the action playing a member of a punk band that unexpectedly witnesses a grisly murder.

Boxed into a music venue's green room, the group begins a desperate fight for their lives.

> **The pitbulls, the stunts, the shotguns ... that was the easy part. The hardest part was keeping this movie hyper intense.**
>
> Director Jeremy Saulnier

Patrick Stewart, a fellow Star Trek alum and leader of the captors, says he could feel the intensity inside the room — even though his role is played outside, separate from most of the violence.

"There are a lot of startling moments. It's quite shocking and not for the squeamish," he says.

Stewart's calm and collected villain elevates the uncertainty that charges through the film's pulse-pounding sequences, which play in near real-time.

Director Jeremy Saulnier says the challenge of Green Room was making each moment seem like an act of desperation.

"The pitbulls, the stunts, the shotguns ... that was the easy part," Saulnier says.

"The hardest part was keeping this movie hyper intense."

Saulnier says he grappled with his own career direction in the aftermath of his previous film Blue Ruin, which caught the attention of Hollywood executives with its explosive moments of violence ripping through the suspense.

They wanted the indie filmmaker to helm their own big-budget projects with a similar bent.

"I was at a crossroads," he says. "All of the sudden I had opportunities I'd never dreamt of."

But instead of taking the bait, as he puts it, Saulnier tackled a challenging project that appealed to him personally.

Green Room is based on a script he wrote and pays homage to his roots as a teenage filmmaker who raced around with his friends shooting footage on a camcorder for the pure love of it.

"The movies we made were like goofy zombie comedies or violent cop movies," he said.

"Something about it felt so pure and I wanted to celebrate that and also make a film that just wouldn't be about shocks and good times, but also a legitimate emotional journey."

Green Room opens Friday in Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Hamilton, London, Ont., Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria and Winnipeg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FILM BRIEFS

France honours Bond villain Mads Mikkelsen

France on Wednesday honoured Bond villain Mads Mikkelsen with a top civilian award, paying tribute to him as a "fascinating" actor whose "face tells it all".

The 50-year-old Danish actor, best known for playing baddie Le Chiffre in the 2006 Bond film Casino Royale received the honour at a ceremony in Copenhagen alongside Danish film director Thomas Vinterberg.

Conferring the honour of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), France's ambassador to Denmark François Zimeray described Mikkelsen as "an all-round actor, whose face tells it all: the hardships and joys of life."

The former professional dancer won the best actor prize at Cannes in 2012 for his role in The Hunt. AFP

Left: All These Sleepless Nights by Michal Marczak is among the films that push the definition of documentary and signal the rise of creative non-fiction, say those in the industry. CONTRIBUTED
Right: Operation Avalanche by Matt Johnson follows two CIA agents in the 1960s as they infiltrate NASA to find a Russian spy and end up trying to fake a moon landing. CONTRIBUTED

Docs show how it didn't happen

FILMMAKING

'Trick' stories meld satire and creative non-fiction

Fact and fiction will collide at Toronto's esteemed Hot Docs festival running this weekend, as several documentaries incorporate performance, story and script — including one that's totally fake.

Michal Marczak's All These Sleepless Nights, Love True by Alma Har'el and the buzzy Operation Avalanche by Matt Johnson are among the films that push the definition of documentary and signal the rise of creative non-fiction in the genre, say those in the industry.

"We're seeing really interesting hybrids and experimentation happening in the documentary form," says Shane Smith, director of programming for the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.

"You wouldn't think that documentary would be such a creative, malleable genre, but it really is."

Smith notes construction and staging have been happening in documentary for decades, stemming as far back as 1922's Nanook of the North.

But these days, filmmakers "are really elevating that and digging in to those creative elements of the documentary form."

"Documentary is mediated reality," says Smith. "The minute you put a camera down in front of somebody, it changes their behaviour — maybe just in very small ways, but they're aware that a camera is there and that it's there for a specific purpose. There's a story to be told.

"So I think filmmakers being upfront about incorporating storytelling elements into their films does not do a disservice to the genre at all."

Billed as a fake documentary, Operation Avalanche follows two CIA agents in the 1960s as they infiltrate NASA to find a Russian spy and end up trying to fake a moon landing.

"I made a fake documentary because I think that form is actually quite vital at the moment," says Toronto-based Johnson, who also stars in the film and made the 2013 fake doc The Dirties.

"I think questions about authenticity and the formal approach that most fiction filmmakers are taking are getting closer and closer and closer to documentary filmmaking, and vice versa."

Unlike a mockumentary, which is often a comical spoof with winking nods to the documentary genre and characters acknowledging the cameras, a fake documentary usually has all the conventions of a traditional one and doesn't present as a parody.

The fake doc "tries to trick people in a way," says Sawers.

"It's a different form of satire, to me anyway," he adds.

Johnson says the perks of making a fake doc as opposed to a narrative movie is that it's cheaper and it offers "free tools that other filmmakers just don't get because they need to follow the rules."

"We shot at NASA, actually at NASA, without them knowing that we were making a movie about faking the moon landing," he says. "That's the kind of thing that we could never have done if we went in with a script and said, 'We want to make a movie about faking the moon landing.'"

That raises the question of whether institutions like NASA might become reluctant to let in other documentary filmmakers.

But Johnson feels that shouldn't "stand in the way of that progress of filmmakers' rights and letting people tell new stories."

"If I'm not doing it, somebody else is," he says. "So the world is going to change, and I think it's actually a huge boon for people to be more media-savvy and think about how their images can be used.

"I don't make movies that make people look stupid. Nobody who appears in this movie I think can justifiably say, 'Oh, I look dumb'.... We're actually trying to make people look as good as they can but tell a story that maybe they don't know that we're telling because if they knew, they couldn't be their authentic selves."

The Hot Docs festival runs through May 8.

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The trebled history of the saxophone

THE DEVIL'S HORN

Documentary looks at instrument's bizarre history

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

The sexy and seductive sound of the saxophone is as close to the cooing voice of a loved one as any instrument can be. Yet, for that very reason the instrument has had a long and storied past ripe with more intrigue than any James Patterson thriller. In the new documentary The Devil's Horn director Larry Weinstein walks us through the sax's wild, woolly and supposedly cursed history.

"It is one of these things where truth is stranger than fiction," he says. "Certainly the life of (inventor) Adolphe Sax is terribly bizarre. From the near deaths he had as a child to the jealousy of instrument makers who actually tried to kill him, twice, and burn down his factory, it looks entirely fictionalized but everything we say about him is true. Then he got this cancerous growth that was so large he couldn't eat or drink or breathe. By the time he was ready to come back to work his patents had run out. He died in total poverty."

The idea of the cursed instrument seems to have originated with its inventor. "Adolphe Sax himself had this dream that devils with saxophones were pulling people to hell."

The movie describes how sax icons Charlie 'Bird' Parker, John Coltrane and many other players of the "devil's instrument" battled heroin addiction, creating sounds so carnal and voluptuous they were outlawed by everyone from the Nazis (who banned the sax from the Earth) to the Vatican. Movie studios barred it from soundtracks and it put the sex in sex, drugs and rock n' roll.

"I always thought when they talked about it sounding like a human voice they meant the timbre of the saxophone. Like the human voice, the sax has alto, tenor, soprano and bass, but I think it also has to do with the fact that it can bend and growl, that it can moan and weave around seductively. Also, you can play with so little air it can whisper but it can also scream and be much louder than most of the other brass instruments."

The Devil's Horn features interviews with jazz musician Giuseppi Logan. CONTRIBUTED

Of course the horn and its players aren't truly cursed but Weinstein says, "other instrumentalists have those problems and they exist in classical music too, but for some reason not to the extent that saxophonists have suffered."

Using a mix of archival footage and new interviews with musicians like Colin Stetson and Giuseppi Logan, Weinstein gets past that catchy concept to make a compelling case for the sax as more than a symbol of depravity and immorality and Mr. Sax as "one of the greatest geniuses in the history of music."

"The problem with the saxophone is you pick it up, blow into it and there is a beautiful rich sound right away. Adolphe Sax made it so people who can't play well sound good. That's the genius of the guy. All other instruments evolved out of other instruments. This guy, in about 1840 said, 'I want to make an instrument with this sound and I'm going to have to make it brass and give it the mouthpiece of a clarinet and the fingerboard of a flute.' And he invented it. Most people if they looked at an 1846 saxophone they would think it looked like a modern saxophone and the sound is almost the same."

Filmmaker Larry Weinstein. CONTRIBUTED

Cuba, through the lens of Hemingway

NEW MOVIE

Papa the first Hollywood film shot in Cuba since 1959

Ernest Hemingway left Cuba shortly after Fidel Castro's revolution, as relations with the United States began to fall into a deep freeze. Over five decades later, the author of The Old Man and the Sea returns to the island thanks to the magic of the silver screen.

Papa: Hemingway in Cuba, a U.S.-Cuban-Canadian production, opens Friday in U.S. theatres as the first full-length Hollywood feature filmed on the island since the 1959 Cuban Revolution, having wrapped even before Havana and Washington's historic announcement that they would restore diplomatic ties.

"Hemingway left as the doors were closing, and left his beloved home of many, many years to come back to the states and die 18 months later," said Adrian Sparks, a veteran stage actor with a striking resemblance to the Nobel Prize-winning author he portrays in the movie, in a recent interview. "Now Hemingway has come back to help open the doors again."

Directed by Bob Yari, Papa is based on an autobiographical script by Denne Bart Petitclerc, who died in 2006. The Petitclerc character in the movie is a young journalist called Ed Myers, played by Giovanni Ribisi, who befriends Hemingway in the late 1950s after sending the novelist a letter.

Through a series of visits to Havana, Myers bears witness to his hero's greatness, his mutual love for Cuba and its people, and the afflictions that torment him.

In Papa: Hemingway in Cuba, a young journalist called Ed Myers, played by Giovanni Ribisi, befriends Hemingway in the late 1950s after sending the novelist a letter. CONTRIBUTED

"There's been numerous films about Hemingway. This is the first one that deals with this time period of his life," Sparks said. "It's a very delicate time. It's a powerful journey that the story makes and tries to understand who this man is."

Joely Richardson, Minka Kelly and James Remar also star.

The film depicts a number of real-life Havana locations associated with Hemingway such as the El Floridita bar, where he was known to down prodigious quantities of lemony daiquiris, and the Ambos Mundos hotel, where he lived for a time. The 1950s cars that prowled Cuban streets then and still do today provide a period backdrop.

Filming took place over nine days in 2013 and again in April-May of 2014, Yari said. It was in December 2014 that Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced that the United States and Cuba would negotiate a historic thaw in relations.

Due to decades of bad geopolitical blood and the U.S. economic embargo, now 54 years old, previous Hollywood productions set in Cuba like The Godfather: Part II or 1990's Havana were shot in stand-in locations, such as the Dominican Republic.

Papa is the first feature with a Hollywood cast and director to be shot on the island, although there have been other productions such as Wim Wenders' 1999 documentary Buena Vista Social Club.

On the heels of Papa and the resumption of diplomatic ties, a number of U.S. productions such as House of Lies and the Fast and Furious franchise have already filmed there or sought permission to do so.

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am to have been able to accomplish what we set out to do, which is kind of bridge a barrier between the two people of Cuba and the U.S.," said Yari, who produced the Oscar-winning Crash. "The arts, I think, are the biggest bridge to kind of overcome governmental issues."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE REAL PAPA

Life and writing in Cuba

"Papa," as Hemingway was affectionately known, lived in Cuba from 1939 to 1960.

He took his own life in Idaho in 1961, after having won the literary Nobel for classics such as The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms and For Whom the Bell Tolls. He also won a Pulitzer for The Old Man and the Sea, which he penned in Cuba.

In the film, he is played by Adrian Sparks, (pictured).

For the film, Cuban authorities gave the crew rare access to shoot inside Finca Vigia, Hemingway's former home 16 kilometres southeast of Havana, now a museum where visitors are only allowed to gaze through the windows. The government also lent one of his old typewriters as a prop and approved the island's official film institute to help with sets, wardrobe and local actors.

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Mother's Day, starring **Jennifer Aniston and Kate Hudson** among other big names, is the latest in a string of **Garry Marshall** holiday films featuring an ensemble cast. CONTRIBUTED

Garry Marshall's fave gigs involve family, ensembles

Q&A

Director talks connections with cast and holiday films

In telling the stories of fictional families in the romantic comedy Mother's Day, director Garry Marshall turned to his own relatives for help onscreen and behind the camera.

The Bronx-born screen legend enlisted his son, Scott, as a second unit director, while his granddaughter, Sienna, appears in the early moments of the film. His famed actor-producer-director sister Penny lends her distinctive voice as a narrator.

"When you start work at 5 o'clock in the morning, it's nice to see people you know," said Marshall, who credited his late mother Marjorie for passing on her sense of humour to himself and his siblings.

Mother's Day, which opens in theatres on Friday, follows a similar template to Marshall's previous ensemble vehicles Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve in telling the interwoven stories of a seemingly disconnected group of characters.

His latest star-studded cast includes Jennifer Aniston as a divorced mother of two, Jason Sudeikis as a recently widowed father and Kate Hudson and Ottawa's Sarah Chalke (Scrubs) as married sisters with secrets.

Mother's Day also served as a Pretty Woman reunion, with Julia Roberts acting as the queen of a home shopping network opposite Hector Elizondo as her agent. Roberts' own kids, twins Hazel and Finn and son Henry, also appear in the film.

Reached in New York, Marshall spoke with The Canadian Press about why he enjoys ensemble films, his favourite holiday and his thoughts on Roberts from her breakout role to today.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

What is the appeal of these ensemble films versus a conventional romantic comedy?

In the ensemble films, I can use more than one lead or two leads. I can get other people to do parts and they usually like to work on something where they don't have to carry the whole picture. So I get in trouble when it doesn't work — not them!

Do you see this as the last in a trilogy of films? Or do you see more films centred around holidays?

People send me a lot of scripts, and they send me all of the holidays, of course. But I don't know. I have a softball picture I'm trying to do with Jamie Foxx who I worked with in Valentine's Day. I don't know, but you never say never in this business. I could do a holiday (movie) tomorrow.

Do you have a favourite personal holiday?

Myself? I guess truly I love Christmas. I have six grandchildren, three kids. I get to spend it all with them with Christmas, so that's my favourite. But I don't particularly want to do a movie about it.

You helped launch Julia Roberts to superstardom with Pretty Woman, and then worked with her in Runaway Bride — and now with this film. What do you make of her progression as an actress?

I'm very delighted with her progression as an actress, but even more proud of her growing up as a person. I never saw her coming out of rehab. Julia never went that route. She went a very, very nice way, married with kids and enjoying it. She used to hang out with an entourage of other young actors, and now, she hangs out with three or four ladies from the (parent-teacher association) from her school. They come on the set, and I'm always hugging moms. She's quite grounded and I'm very proud.

It will be such a treat for so many fans of Pretty Woman to see Hector Elizondo and Julia Roberts back together onscreen. Correct me if I'm wrong, apparently he's been in every single one of your films. Is that right?

I can't correct you. I've done a lot of films. I've directed 18, and Hector Elizondo is in all 18.

He had a nice moment there (in Mother's Day) with Julia. He blew his line. Hector never blows his lines. But in that one scene with Julia, he kind of choked up.

I said: "What's the matter?" He said: "I got verklempt." He truly got teary. He was looking at her, they were playing the scene, and he realized that we had worked together — the three of us — when she was 21 years old. She had her birthday on Pretty Woman. Then, to see her grow into a woman and everything, it was very touching.

The second take he did perfect. But it was a nice moment between all of us.

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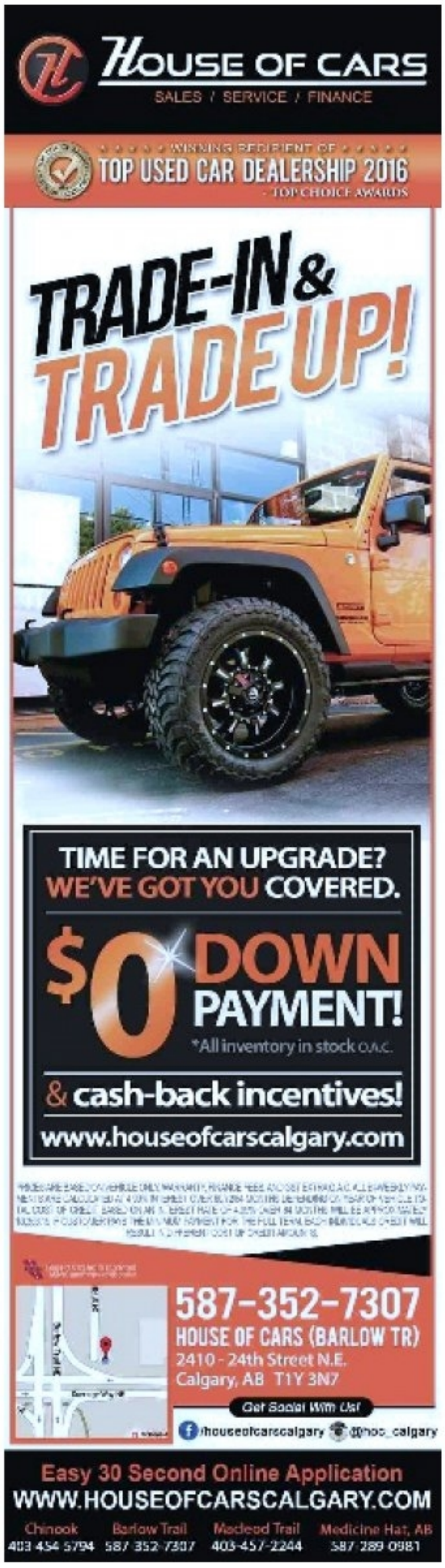

No awards, just viewers for NCIS

INTERVIEW

Chris O'Donnell talks about popularity of network show

Chris O'Donnell says he's loving filming in L.A.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"There are shows," says Chris O'Donnell, "that never garner awards, that aren't considered highbrow in any way — but that lots of fans really enjoy and keep coming back to watch."

These days, viewers (especially media critics) hail a new Golden Age of Television. But O'Donnell's formidable NCIS: Los Angeles is systematically absent from any such honour roll, as are the others in this franchise-troika: the original NCIS (in its 13th-and-counting hit season, with Mark Harmon as star) and NCIS: New Orleans (which premiered two seasons ago). The trio routinely occupies the Nielsen Top 20.

"We fly under the radar in some respects," says O'Donnell, who will wrap this season Monday at 10 p.m. EDT on CBS. "We've had our heads down, working hard for seven years."

He notes how the splintering of audiences, with boutique shows that cater to each niche, is the current TV trend.

"I don't know how many big network procedurals like ours there are gonna be in the future, and it's exciting to be part of it," he says.

For its audience, averaging some 12 million viewers (including DVD playback), NCIS: Los Angeles boasts a goes-down-easy formula that seems to spring naturally.

"And shooting in LA the past seven years — that's a real luxury for an actor," adds O'Donnell, 45, who considers himself a family man even more than an actor, and, with his wife, Caroline Fentress, has five kids ages 8 to 17.His series premiered in September 2009 as a spinoff of NCIS.

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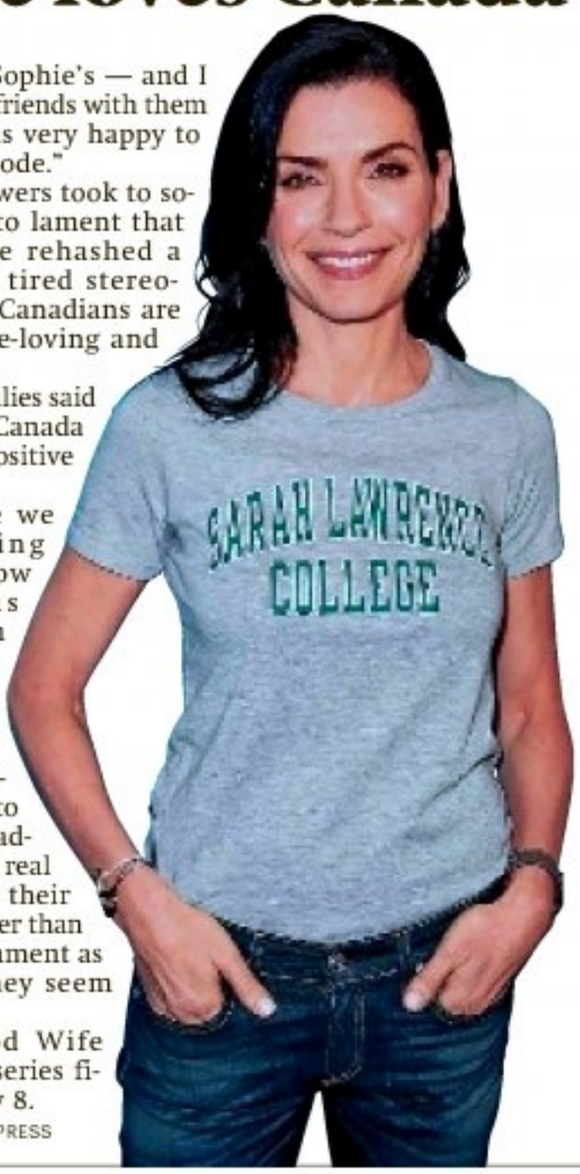
INTERVIEW

The Good Wife loves Canada



The Good Wife star Julianna Margulies says she's friends with the Trudeaus and the show's recent episode set in Toronto was an homage to Canada.

In an episode that aired on Global and CBS earlier this month, Margulies's lawyer character Alicia Florrick flew from Chicago to Toronto's Pearson International Airport for a case involving a National Security Agency contractor.

A Canadian justice of the peace chided the Americans a few times for their behaviour, saying: "Let's leave the land of guns and gangs behind us, shall we, and not interrupt each other."

"I loved the episode because I just thought it smacked America on the hand by saying, 'Stop already, this is ridiculous,"' Margulies said Thursday in a conference call with reporters.

"One of my favourite lines was the judge saying, 'I'm not speaking as a judge now, I'm speaking as a Canadian citizen, where we don't spy on our citizens and we have superior health care.' I thought that was fabulous.

"And I'm such a big fan of Justin and Sophie's — and I actually am friends with them — that I was very happy to do that episode."

Some viewers took to social media to lament that the episode rehashed a number of tired stereotypes: that Canadians are clean, peace-loving and uber polite.

But Margulies said she hopes "Canada saw it in a positive light."

"Because we were trying to show how ridiculous America can be and is at times in their political system, and how important it is to stop the madness and get real and respect their citizens rather than their government as much as they seem to."

The Good Wife will air its series finale on May 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Painkillers found with Prince at death scene, reports say

INVESTIGATION

Local police dispute claims they asked DEA for help

Prince's longtime friend and collaborator Sheila E. said Prince had hip and knee problems from years of jumping off risers and stage speakers in heels. GETTY IMAGES

Prescription drugs were discovered with Prince when he was found dead in his Paisley Park home in suburban Minneapolis, several news organizations reported. ABC, NBC, CBS, and CNN, citing unidentified law enforcement sources, reported that prescription painkillers were found on the 57-year-old musician and in his home.

The Star Tribune, also citing unnamed sources, reported that prescription pills were found but that it wasn't clear whether they had been prescribed to Prince.

The Associated Press wasn't able to independently confirm the reports.

Investigators are now considering overdose in Prince's death, and whether a doctor supplied drugs.

Prince died April 21. An autopsy has been performed, but results weren't expected for three to four weeks.

The music megastar's death came less than a week after reports that his plane made an emergency landing in Moline, Illinois, as he returned after performing in Atlanta. TMZ, citing unidentified sources, reported that Prince was treated for an overdose of the painkiller Percocet.

Airport and public safety officials in Moline have refused to confirm that the plane that made an emergency landing in Moline was Prince's aircraft, and heavily redacted incident reports released under a public information request did not identify the person who was treated. Prince's representatives have not responded to request for comment on the reports.

Carver County Deputy Sheriff Jason Kamerud declined to comment Thursday on the reports of drugs found at Paisley Park, and said that he strongly disputed reports by several media outlets that investigators had asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for help in the case. "We have not asked them for help, or asked them to be a part of the investigation," Kamerud said.

"We might contact them to help us, but that hasn't happened. We don't have the medical examiner's report yet. We don't know to what extent pharmaceuticals could be a part of this."

Leo Hawkins, a DEA spokesman in Chicago, said he had no comment.

Prince's death came two weeks after he cancelled concerts in Atlanta, saying he wasn't feeling well.

He played a pair of makeup shows April 14 in that city. Prince was scheduled to perform two shows in St. Louis but cancelled them shortly before his death due to health concerns.

Longtime friend and collaborator Sheila E. has said that Prince had physical issues from performing, citing hip and knee problems that she said came from years of jumping off risers and stage speakers in heels.

A Minnesota judge has sealed a search warrant in the investigation of Prince's death after authorities argued that making it public would hamper their work.

The local sheriff and prosecutor filed papers Thursday requesting it be sealed. They cited the intense media scrutiny following Prince's death.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Comcast to buy DreamWorks in $3.5B deal

Comcast is buying DreamWorks Animation for approximately $3.55 billion. DreamWorks stockholders will receive $41 for each share they own. That's a 24 per cent premium to the company's Wednesday closing price of $32.20. The companies put the deal's value at about $3.8 billion. DreamWorks will become part of the Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, which includes Universal Pictures. Once the deal closes, DreamWorks co-founder and CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg will become chairman of DreamWorks New Media. He'll also serve as a consultant to NBCUniversal, a unit of Comcast Corp.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jenner takes up Trump on offer to use women's loo

Caitlyn Jenner has taken up Donald Trump's offer and used the women's restroom at one of his luxury buildings. The Republican presidential candidate said last week that he believes transgender people should be able to use whichever bathroom they choose. Trump said North Carolina's so-called "bathroom law," which directs transgender people to use the bathroom that matches the gender on their birth certificates, has caused unnecessary strife. Trump said that if Jenner were to walk into Trump Tower, she could use whichever bathroom she wanted. Jenner used the women's room — without incident — at the Trump International Hotel and Tower in Manhattan.

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

2016 is a year that requires us to think about how and why we mourn public figures. We need more thoughtfulness than our speed-obsessed social media allows

The other night I made orecchiette with rapini, anchovies, garlic, and bread crumbs. I used to make this pasta all the time, on account of it being so simple, but I'd forgotten about it.

I also forgot how much I enjoy Garry Shandling, who passed at 66 away on March 24.

Three months earlier, he appeared with his good friend Jerry Seinfeld on his show Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee, which we watched with dinner. Driving in a 1979 Porsche 9-30 Turbo, the two affectionate friends hit up L.A.'s Comedy Store, where they both got their start, Du-Par's Restaurant and Bakery, and CBS studios where they both helmed shows during the '90s. They poke fun at Matthew McConaughey's Lincoln commercials, talk work ethics, life, and death — including Shandling's own.

"What I want at my funeral is for an actual boxing referee to do a count," he jokes to Seinfeld, "and at five, just wave it off and say, 'He's not getting up.'"

We launched into episodes of The Larry Sanders Show, Shandling's groundbreaking sitcom about a late night talk show, immediately after. "You invented a certain kind of air," Seinfeld said about the series, which ran for six seasons and concluded in 1998. "You created an original content form. Do you ever watch TV — The Office, Modern Family — and think, 'Oh look, they're still doing me— that thing I invented.'"

THE MEMORY: Garry Shandling

THE MEAL: Orecchiette

Shandling said that when he first pitched the show, he couldn't provide references to other series — this was 14 years before 30 Rock — because it was so entirely original.

I didn't watch the show until I was in my 30s. Larry Sanders deals in the darkest shades of comedy, pitilessly scrutinizing the foibles of human frailty: vanity, insecurity and pathological selfishness. Those horrible impulses, wrapped up in ego and universally shared — making them universally humourous — weren't something that my younger self was aware of... yet.

But revisiting the show now, after having occasionally appeared on TV myself, made me almost too self-aware: In my darkest moments I worry that I'm a little like Hank and Larry.

On Sunday about 500 people, including Sarah Silverman, Warren Beatty, and Johnny Depp, gathered for a memorial service for Garry Shandling. About a dozen friends shared memories and told jokes — including Judd Apatow, who wrote for The Larry Sanders Show.

Apatow fought back tears, according to the Hollywood Reporter, and then launched right into a joke about Shandling and Prince having so much in common, which caused "the night's first wave of uproarious laughter."

"Both stood up against the man to get their shit back, and both were sexy as a mother f—er...The only difference between the two was that Garry had a huge c—," Apatow said, adding that the punchline was "the joke Garry would have wanted."

2016 is a year that requires us to think about how and why we mourn public figures. We need more thoughtfulness than our speed-obsessed social media allows.

As one Titan after another returns to Olympus, specific codes are called for, depending on who died: Getting odd was good for Bowie, Prince's passing requires reflecting on that moment we found our inner freak, and Garry Shandling demands some penis and fart jokes.

To be honest, the pasta didn't live up to my memory of it. It was so bland that I had to smother it in hot peppers, which burned the hell out of my mouth, not to mention my...

Anyway, Larry Sanders was better than I ever remembered.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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KIA The Power to Surprise

A group of YouTube creators in the new YouTube Space. The downtown Toronto campus of George Brown College will house the 3,500-square-foot facility, which YouTube creators will be able to access for free. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

YouTubers not stuck recording in kitchen

CANADIAN CONTENT

Hub offers free production facilities and workshops

YouTube has proven to be fertile ground for a growing crop of Canadian content creators whose videos have amassed millions of views on the streaming service.

Now, some homegrown personalities who film out of their kitchens and living rooms will have a dedicated hub to call their own with the first-ever YouTube Space in Canada.

The downtown Toronto campus of George Brown College will house the newly launched 3,500-square-foot facility, which YouTube creators will be able to access free of charge.

Events are slated to be held throughout the year for creators of every subscriber level. Those with channels that have more than 1,000 subscribers can attend workshops and events. Creators with more than 10,000 subscribers can also apply to use the production facilities and participate in additional programs.

Similar spaces exist in London, New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Berlin and Paris.

Liam Collins, head of YouTube Spaces for the Americas, said the goal is to bring content creators together to "learn, create and connect." To that end, workshops are held at the spaces on everything from how to light a green screen to how to grow audiences and make money from the service.

"A YouTube Space is a facility, but more than that, it's an idea," said Collins.

"And the idea is that when people come together in person, it enhances everyone's creative work product. And we love to have the opportunity to have creators lay eyes on one another and be able to connect in person. They've given us the feedback that that's a really valuable experiment for them."

> **We have no inclination to go to the States, which there is a pressure to do..... We want to do all of our work here.**
> Gregory Brown

One of the corridors in the Toronto space is lined with posters of some of YouTube's top Canadian talents, touting their subscriber totals and notable clips in their catalogues.

Among them is Lilly Singh — a.k.a. Superwoman — who has more than 8.5 million subscribers tuning in to her sketch comedy videos. She recently landed a guest appearance on The Tonight Show.

Edmonton-born musician Mike Tompkins and the Toronto-based educators behind channel AsapSCIENCE are also among the Canadian creators racking up millions of views and subscribers.

"People all over the world watch the content our Canadian creators make," said Collins.

"That's something that is inherent to YouTube — this global reach and diversity. And Canada is just such a great exemplar of that trend."

YouTuber Anthony Deluca admitted filming segments in Toronto is challenging due in part to the difficulties and costs of obtaining permits.

"I was trying to look for an apartment while moving into the city that had the sort of esthetic quality that I wanted that was also large enough to film in, and that comes at a premium when it comes to rent," said Deluca, whose channel is dedicated to men's fashion, lifestyles and DIY beauty.

"Having the opportunity to come to a space like this provides a lot of us with those (logistics) ... to try new equipment and have that space."

AsapSCIENCE co-creator Gregory Brown attended an event at a YouTube Space in New York, which was live streamed on his channel, and has collaborated with fellow YouTubers in the L.A. space. He said he's happy to have a similar environment closer to home.

"We love Toronto," said Brown. "We have no inclination to go to the States, which there is a pressure to do.

"We want to stay here, we want to do all of our work here. So now we have a place where we can collaborate with other people and do all of those events here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Square footage of the facility at the downtown Toronto campus of George Brown College

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You had us at cattle drive

FORT WORTH

Former frontier town comes of age

We've lined Exchange Ave. in the Stockyards National Historic District to see modern-day cowboys at work in the heartland of the city.

Here they come at 11:30 a.m. sharp — five men and a lone woman sitting tall on American quarter horses and dressed all 1880s style in chaps and vests.

But we mostly have eyes for the 16 Texas Longhorns they're "driving."

They're as gorgeous as cattle get, what with dramatic horns and mixed colouring.

"These guys have run a couple of times and it's frightening," whispers trail boss Kristin Jaworski. "We want them to go as slow as possible. Nice and calm."

This is more like a walking of the steers than a Pamplona-style running of the bulls. We're told to stand on the sidewalks, probably so we can make a quick getaway if the castrated male cows suddenly go wild.

Exchange Ave., which has been temporarily blocked to traffic, quickly reverts to normal.

The trick is to come early and chat up the "cowboys" who are playing drovers. That's the name for the diverse group of people — men, women, African Americans, Native Americans, Mexican vaqueros (cowboys) — that drove Texas Longhorns from South Texas to Kansas along the Chisholm Trail during the cattle drive era of the late 1800s.

In Texas, you go big or go home. The twice-a-day cattle drive down Exchange Avenue is a case in point. Right: Woodshed Smokehouse's Mexican corn. FORT WORTH CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU; WOODSHED SMOKEHOUSE

Fort Worth, you had me at cattle drive. And then there's the Stockyards National Historic District, 15 blocks of Old West meets Wild West meets Truly Texas.

This former frontier town won't be standing in the shadow of Dallas, Austin and San Antonio for much longer.

It's carving its niche as the "City of Cowboys and Culture." To me, it means you can watch a concert at Panther Island Pavilion while floating on inner tubes. The city has an ambitious Trinity River Vision project to create an entire waterfront community.

At the Stockyards Stables, grad student Lacey Jensen saddles up horses for us, just steps from Exchange Ave. We head out through a hotel parking lot, across a busy street and along the Old Chisholm Trail.

"You can ride your horse down here and eat at a restaurant, which is pretty crazy," Jensen confides.

Be sure to stay at the Stockyards Hotel. Bonnie and Clyde were guests in 1933 and their actual room is booked months in advance. This hotel oozes Old West charm and the rooms open with old-fashioned keys instead of swipe cards. You'll find earplugs beside your bed.

"Sometimes it gets pretty wild around here and the walls are thin," advises front desk staffer Erik Chipman.

The earplugs are officially called "cowboy silencers — the cure for loud cowboys."

JENNIFER BAIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TO-DO LIST

Loud music
There's music everywhere, starting at Chief Records in the Stockyards. I caught ticketed shows at Billy Bob's Texas and the Live Oak Music Hall & Lounge.

Fast cars
The Texas Motor Speedway complex boasts the world's largest high-def video board nicknamed Big Hoss.

Good eats
I was wowed by chef Tim Love's Woodshed Smokehouse, where "new Q" means lamb brisket, smoked Texas peanuts with chili salt, "today's animal," and brisket-stuffed piquillo peppers with bone broth.

Jennifer Bain was hosted by the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau, which didn't review or approve this story.

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Turtle nesting an age-old ritual

COSTA RICA

From verge of extinction to major tourist draw

Edgar Cespedes, my Costa Rican guide, is beckoning me furiously.

Our group of six has been wandering since dawn on a lonely stretch of beach on Tortuguero's northernmost coast.

The goal has been to glimpse of one of the green, Hawksbill or Olive Ridley turtles that call the area home. With none in sight, I'd been lingering behind the group, snapping photos of crashing waves and a beautiful sunrise instead.

Who rushes to see a turtle?

His yell changes things. In the distance, slowly moving from her nest high on the beach is a giant green turtle and now I am in a full sprint to get a closer look. Estimates put her at about 70 years old. Her slow pace, slow even for a turtle, is with good reason; the previous night she would have laid at least 100 eggs. Later, when we pop into the Sea Turtle Conservancy on the island, research scientist Beto Gonzalez calls us "lucky."

WHEN TO GO
As many as 600 green turtles make their way to the beaches of Tortuguero to nest between July and October each year.

Our visit in mid-October is at the tail end of the traditional green turtle nesting season, he explains. While visitors might see as many as 600 turtles nesting on the beach on a night in September, by November numbers begin to dwindle to an average of 50 to 80 and most nest, lay eggs and leave in the darkness of night.

It's actually something of a miracle that there are any turtles in Tortuguero at all. When the Sea Turtle Conservancy began its work in Costa Rica in 1959 the animals were on the verge of extinction. A combination of tracking initiatives and educational outreach with local youth turned the tide.

Over the last few decades the number of turtles killed by locals for their meat and shells has dropped dramatically. Where once 200 to 300 turtles were being taken each night, now less than three meet that same fate.

Animals have long been a major draw for tourists who come to Costa Rica but those who make the long trip out to Tortuguero almost always come for the turtles.

That's not to say the town itself isn't worth seeing. With a population of less than 1,500 people, the village is a welcome change from the increasingly tourist-dense spots in other parts of the country.

Each nighttime guide is given a specific area on the beach to which he can take his group to watch for turtles. Another set of professional spotters are trained to watch for signs of the animals and alert the chaperone.

It can take hours to spot a turtle at this time of year. We wait for several hours only to learn that the one turtle that has made its way to our section of beach is missing a fin and struggling to dig her nest. We call it a night without catching a glimpse.

It's why Cespedes is so excited when we happen on the green turtle the next morning. This time we watch her in silence.

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS/ FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heather Greenwood Davis' visit to Tortuguero was subsidized in part by Costa Rica Tourism, visitcostarica.com, which didn't review or approve this story.

Turtles lay hundreds of eggs at a time and the hatchlings that survive eventually make their way back to the same shores to lay their own eggs. COSTA RICA TOURISM BOARD

TRAVEL TONING IT DOWN, RIP-OFFS

New law mandates better manners from Times Square characters

Spider-Man, Elmo and the Statue of Liberty will just have to be on their best behaviour.After fielding complaints for years about aggressive costumed characters pressuring tourists for tips, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed a bill to regulate where and how they operate in Times Square and to curtail any aggressive behaviour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gallery of fake paintings opens in Argentina

The paintings in Buenos Aires' newest gallery may look like the work of great artists, but they are actually rip-offs — and the exhibition's organizers want you to know it. The 40 canvases on display at the exhibition in the Argentine capital were seized in a raid organized by cross-border police agency Interpol on a band of forgers. Police got hold of 240 works overall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

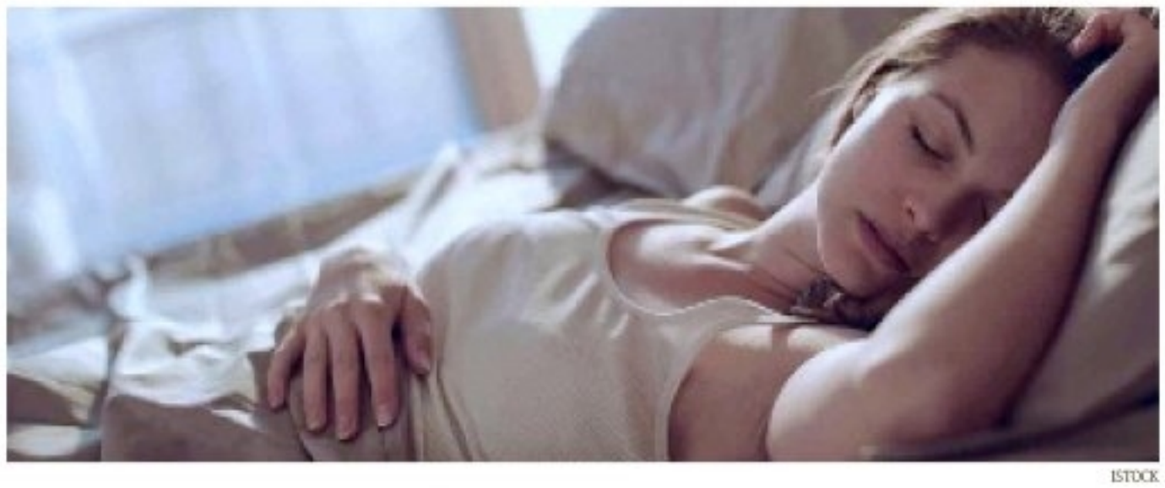
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A better sleep for a healthy life

Deep, restorative sleep is essential to our well-being — and yet for so many people, the nighttime is a long and frustrating period of lying awake.

A Statistics Canada report concluded that as many as 3.3 million Canadians aged 15 years and older have trouble getting to sleep and staying asleep. Insomnia afflicts one in every seven people and 18 per cent of them report less than five hours of sleep per night.

Is this your experience sometimes, or all the time? "If it happens too often, a big improvement may be yours with just a few lifestyle changes," says Sue Rainville, director of marketing for Hunter Douglas. "And today, there are also some innovative furnishings and fixtures to promote better sleep such as light- and noise-blocking solutions. All our window treatments, for instance, provide a measure of light control but some products offer more room-darkening benefits than others, so be sure to ask."



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A key consideration in coverings, says Rainville, is the fabric or material type and colour. Sheer fabrics typically soften and filter sunlight, while semi-opaque and opaque versions almost completely block it out.

And for better sleep, she says, pay attention to this:

Bedtime Schedule: Go to bed at the same time and rise at the same time to establish a consistent sleep-wake cycle. Soon you'll find yourself waking up naturally without an alarm clock.

The Bed: If you wake up with a sore back or aching neck, chances are you need to invest in a new mattress or try a different pillow. You may also be inadvertently sabotaging your sleep cycle if you work in bed before turning out the light. The brain may resist the switch from work to sleep.

Light: The best window treatments are those that dim exterior light. The Duette Architella line, for example, features opaque honeycomb shades designed to significantly reduce heat transfer at the window and serve as an excellent light-dimming tool. The darker the room, the better you'll sleep.

Eating and Drinking Habits: Big meals at night take a lot of work to digest keeping you awake, whereas a light snack may promote sleep. And, with fluids like coffee, did you know that the effects of caffeine can cause sleep problems up to 10 hours after your last drop? Switch to caffeine-free beverages instead.

Silence: Noise is one of the most disruptive factors and has a way of easily infiltrating our private spaces. Ask about sound-absorbing window treatments, like the popular Vignette Modern Roman Shades, designed with rear fabric air pockets to trap and absorb sound energy.

ISTOCK

GREET SPRING WITH SPA REFRESHED SKIN

With the scorching sun and the dry weather, people need to pay extra attention to skin protection on their face and skin.

While a facial treatment is often chosen for a relaxing and enjoyable experience, there are actually many health benefits too, according to Santé Spa marketing director Christina Arthur Dick.

"There are emotional and physical benefits such as increased circulation, better skin, anti-aging and cleansing powers; really the multitude of benefits are plenty," she explains.

"Our luxurious Santé Spa facial treatments will prepare your skin for the dry weather and hot sun and, of course, if you suffered a sunburn it can help that as well. It's a delightful antidote to the warmer temperatures of spring and summer."

Whether it's a treat for yourself or a ladies spa day with friends, there are many other treatments Santé Spa has to offer, including massage, manicures and pedicures.

Right now there are some spring specials to take advantage of at the spa, Arthur Dick adds.

"This spring, one of our more popular facials is the microdermabrasion facial, utilizing our DiamondTome™ micro-facial technology, which works to give you a smoother, more rejuvenated complexion. Combine this with a medical grade sunscreen and your skin will look radiant and refreshed."

Santé Spa is a boutique spa located at the top of the Hotel Le Germain in Downtown Calgary, which offers rejuvenating spa treatments and advanced skincare.

For more information, please visit germain.santespa.com.

HEAL SKIN NATURALLY

As the temperatures rise, so probably does the number of people suffering from painful skin conditions, but there are remedies that can help.

Many Canadians — in particular, senior citizens — suffer from a painful skin condition called pruritus, which is severe itching of the skin often brought on from dry weather causing the skin to dehydrate.

While there may be a number of remedies on the market, the highly effective Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer has proven to help many sufferers, according to Montreal-based distributor Canada Orient International Trade's spokesperson M Chen.

"Jian Pai cream helps heal or reduce various skin problems including pruritus. It can be used on the face without risk. This cream is suitable for everyday use and is effective for most skin problems by applying only once," Chen says. "This product is also 100 per cent natural and has an NPN issued by Health Canada."

Chen points to the case of a 90-year-old woman who was suffering from severe pruritus. "Many medications could only help her temporarily and the skin itches intensified once she stopped applying them. But once she tried Jian Pai natural skin cream, she started noticing a difference immediately after applying the cream."

ISTOCK

Unlike a lot of products on the market that can help skin conditions, Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer doesn't contain hormones that may produce side effects in many users, Chen adds.

Get ready, here comes summer

As temperatures get warmer, it's the perfect time to rejuvenate your face, body and hair.

It's no fluke that Calgary's Hair Restoration Services (HRS) has won the Consumer Choice Award for 12 years in a row, including 2016, and they continue to lead the industry when it comes to skin tightening, laser services and hair-loss services, according to owner Arlene Forster.

"We believe in rejuvenating your hair, body and skin so that you can look and feel your best, especially as the weather warms up," HRS owner Arlene Forster says, adding the recipe for success is superior customer service in a variety of services, something HRS excels at.

"Not only do we offer free consultations on all of our services but we are more than just hair and we have all of the latest technology in fat and cellulite reduction, skin tightening, laser hair removal and skin resurfacing."

Forster says some of that cutting-edge technology includes the Body Fx, which is a radio frequency machine that reduces cellulite and tightens skin at the same time as well as laser hair removal and the wrinkle reducing machine, Fractora. They also have Hair Talk hair extensions, Revita, which is a growth product and portfolio laser caps.

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HRS also specializes in hair loss treatments for both men and women and while 80 per cent of HRS clients are men, women actually suffer from hair loss, too.

EASE THE STRAIN OF DEEP NECK PAIN

Imagine not being able to turn your head without pain to the point where you might not even be able to get out of bed.

That can often happen with wry neck, also known as Torticollis, which is an extremely painful disorder of the muscles in the neck that causes acute pain that can often be debilitating, according to Edmonton area chiropractor Dr. Brian Gushaty.

"The first time you experience wry neck, you immediately know something is wrong," Gushaty says. "Even the smallest movement is excruciatingly painful. You aren't able to turn your head without pain. You may feel like you're not even able to get out of bed without help if you wake up with wry neck."

Most cases are acute, meaning the onset is sudden. The pain is usually felt between the base of the skull and the top of the shoulders, and is usually worse on one side.

"Patients with wry neck will also likely experience muscle spasms in the neck and upper back, and the inability to turn the neck from side to side."

There are several causes for wry neck including an injury to the neck, poor posture, lifting something heavy, sleeping in an awkward position or sometimes for no particular reason at all.

"The good news about an acute case of wry neck is that it will likely improve over 48 hours from onset. For those 48 hours, limit your movement and use a heat pack for 20 minutes every couple of hours to help your muscles relax," Gushaty says.

"Often taking some of the pressure off your neck will help as well. Try using a travel pillow or a rolled up towel around your neck to provide some added stability."

Can chiropractic help?

"With wry neck, your muscles will be hypersensitive and the pain may mean an adjustment may not be possible but your chiropractor may be able to help by providing some light trigger point therapy or active release therapy; and additionally may be able to provide some release using ultrasound on the affected areas."

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See your way to glasses-free reading

Imagine not having to pick up your reading glasses just to enjoy your favourite book.

What used to sound impossible is now a reality for thousands of Canadians who otherwise would need reading glasses. A promising new treatment is now available at Gimbel Eye Centre, according to Chief Operating Officer Gregg Becker.

"The KAMRA inlay one of the newest treatments we at Gimbel are offering to address the age old challenge of eyes that come to need reading glasses," Becker explains. "This surgery basically reduces or eliminates the need for reading glasses for qualifying patients."

While the process is newer in Canada, it's been used in many other parts of the world including Europe and Japan for years.

The KAMRA inlay itself is a high tech insert which is placed into the cornea of one eye in a simple and short procedure, with no pain, and it uses the same laser technology as other

ISTOCK

procedures done at Gimbel, which have been used for decades.

"I've had it done and it reduced my use of reading glasses by about 80 per cent," he adds.

Gimbel Eye Centre has been providing safe and high quality service for over 50 years in Alberta and continues to lead the industry in innovation.

"Our surgeons began practicing in the areas of cataract and refractive laser surgery when the field was relatively new and the procedures they pioneered are now common across the industry."

For more information, visit gimbel.com.

PIN ALLERGIES DOWN WITH ACUPUNCTURE

For many Canadians, the blooming flowers and green grass growing in spring can often become a love/hate relationship.

That's because more than one in six Canadians suffer from seasonal allergies or hay fever so the sight and smell of spring blossoming can cause extreme sniffling and sneezing even though it's nice outside, according to Calgary's Green Leaf Centre Dr. Yi Fu, who says there are alternative ways to treat the bothersome ailment.

"Western medicine views seasonal allergies as a form of immediate hypersensitivity reaction which occurs when anti-bodies produced by lymphocytes interact with airborne particles such as pollen," he explains.

"I find it gratifying to treat seasonal allergies with acupuncture. There is often a quick response since acupuncture can balance the immune system at the same time. Often patients get great relief during the first visit with their acupuncture needles in place."

Patients can also determine the effectiveness of acupuncture treatment by tracking the number of sneezes per day and the number of itching episodes around their eyes.

ISTOCK

"After an initial series of treatments, patients come in for further treatments on an as needed basis. Some patients come back in once or twice a year for a booster while others may come more often. We have seen many patients who failed medication and allergy shots respond to acupuncture," Dr. Fu adds.

Prospective patients should speak with the acupuncturist and inquire about past experience in treating seasonal allergies and their success rate.

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The Los Angeles Rams selected quarterback Jared Goff with the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft

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Sabres 6%
Canadiens 5%
Avalanche 3.5%
Devils 3%
Senators 2.5%
Hurricanes 2%
Bruins 1%

A glimpse at who has the best chances of landing the No. 1 draft pick on Saturday (and get the right to presumably select Auston Matthews)

NHL

Chances are top pick goes to Canadian club

The two Canadian teams never to pick first overall will have their own special lucky charms for the upcoming NHL draft lottery.

"We're sending hopefully what will be a lucky Irishman," Calgary Flames general manager Brad Treliving said of team president Brian Burke. "We're just banking on him."

"Our lucky charm is Trevor," Vancouver Canucks GM Jim Benning said of team president and former captain Trevor Linden. "We're due for some good luck."

Canadian teams have a 68.5 per cent chance of landing the top pick at Saturday's lottery, led by the Toronto Maple Leafs at 20 per cent and Edmonton Oilers at 13.5 per cent.

Beyond the Oilers, who have secured the first overall pick four times in the past six years, Canadian NHL teams have rarely picked first historically.

The Flames and Canucks have never done so.

Calgary's highest pick was fourth overall in 2014 (Sam Bennett) while Vancouver has picked as high as second, including in 1988 with the selection of Linden. Two other teams, the Maple Leafs and Winnipeg Jets (as the Jets and not the Atlanta Thrashers), have picked first only once in their respective histories, but neither in more than 30 years.

Montreal and Ottawa have owned the top selection multiple times, but not since 1980 for the Canadiens and 1996 for the Senators.

The two GMs of the clubs never to pick first are approaching the lottery well aware that the odds are stacked firmly against them. Vancouver has only an 11.5 per cent chance of landing the top spot, Calgary a touch below that at 8.5 per cent.

10

The Flames have 10 picks in this year's draft, including three in the second round.

"That translates into a 91 per cent chance you're not going to be there," Treliving said in an interview. "And so I've tried to look at things in the realm of percentages and odds of things taking place. You've got to be prepared for the more likely scenario of not being there."

Benning concurred, noting the possibility of the Canucks falling as low as the sixth overall pick and the preparation that comes with potentially picking lower.

The NHL will use the lottery system to draw the first three picks for the first time.

The Canucks GM has seen each of the top three projected prospects, Auston Matthews as well as Finnish wingers Patrick Laine and Jesse Puljujarvi, eight to 10 times in person and has a good handle on what each might bring.

"I know those guys very well," he said, describing each as an immediate NHL contributor.

Matthews, an American centre who played this past season in Switzerland, is generally thought to be a foregone conclusion at No. 1.

"Would it surprise me if Auston went first? No, it wouldn't," Treliving said with a touch of sarcasm. "He's a wonderful player. He's a talent. (But) he's not the only talented player in this draft, there's others. So we'll see how it all plays out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS GETTING THE PARTY STARTED
The Penguins' Eric Fehr and Alex Ovechkin of the Capitals vie for the puck during Game 1 of their second-round playoff series in Washington on Thursday night. For the result, go to metronews.ca. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

NHL IN BRIEF

Bergeron up for third Selke
Boston Bruins forward Patrice Bergeron has a chance to win his third straight and fourth total Frank J. Selke Trophy after the NHL announced its three finalists on Thursday.

Bergeron, along with Anaheim's Ryan Kesler and Los Angeles' Anze Kopitar were nominated by the Professional Hockey Writers' Association for the trophy that is awarded "to the forward who best excels in the defensive aspects of the game." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tough guy Orr calls it quits
Former NHL tough guy Colton Orr has retired after a 13-year professional career.

Orr played 477 career NHL games with the Boston Bruins, the New York Rangers and Toronto Maple Leafs, piling up 1,186 penalty minutes.

The six-foot-three, 225-pound Winnipeg native only managed 12 goals and 12 assists in his NHL career, but his fighting ability won him an NHL job.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Lions: Elimimian back in good health

The B.C. Lions say linebacker Solomon Elimimian has fully recovered from the Achilles tendon injury that ended his 2015 season.

The CFL's most outstanding player two years ago, Elimimian ruptured the ligament in a game against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in August.

Lions head coach and general manager Wally Buono met the media after the CFL club's off-season workout on Thursday and said Elimimian will be a full participant when training camp opens next month in Kamloops, B.C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **He's doing stuff right now that when you look at, makes you excited for 2016 for him.**
> Wally Buono, Lions head coach

Paul Millsap and Al Horford of the Atlanta Hawks defend a shot by Jae Crowder on Thursday in Boston. MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

Hawks shut down Celtics

NBA PLAYOFFS

Boston's season comes to end on home court

Paul Millsap had 17 points and eight rebounds, and the Atlanta Hawks advanced to the second round of the NBA playoffs with a 104-92 Game 6 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

Al Horford and Kent Bazemore each added 15 points for the Hawks, who earned their first playoff series win over Boston since the St. Louis Hawks beat the Celtics in the 1958 Finals.

The Hawks open the second round on Monday at the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Celtics last three playoff appearances have ended in first-round exits.

Coming off a 27-point win in Game 5, the Hawks took advantage of poor shooting by Boston on Thursday, building as much as a 28-point lead.

Atlanta blew the game open with a 39-point third quarter in which it shot 74 per cent from the field.

The Celtics shot just 36 per cent for the game. They made a final charge to get as close as 10 points, but Atlanta was able to close it out.

Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 25 points and 10 assists. Jae Crowder added 15 points.

GAME 6 In Boston

104 92

For most of the game, the Hawks simply benefited from Boston's struggles.

The Celtics played most of the second half with Crowder battling foul trouble.

He went to the bench after picking up his fourth foul with 11:21 left in third quarter. Coach Brad Stevens rolled dice and re-inserted him, only for Crowder to be called for his fifth foul with 8:13 to play.

Crowder fouled out with three minutes to play.

But most of the damage was done much earlier.

There was lots of energy inside TD Garden from the home fans at tipoff, and Boston did a decent job of matching it on the defensive end, forcing four early turnovers.

The offensive end was another story. The Celtics started game by connecting on just four of its first 18 field goal attempts and shot 28 per cent in the first half.

It let the Hawks get a little separation with Boston managing only four points in the first six minutes of second quarter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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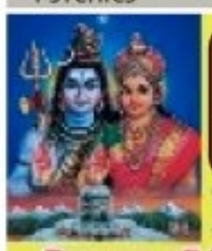

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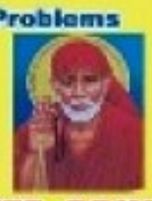

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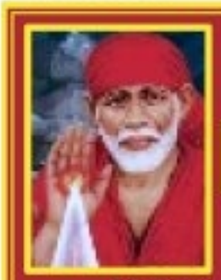

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RECIPE Muffaletta Sandwich

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Why make a sandwich when you can create an over-stuffed version that packs a secret flavor punch—olives.

Ready in
10 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 loaf of bread
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp black olive tapenade
- 1 cup roasted red peppers, sliced into strips
- 2 cups mozzarella, sliced
- 2 handfuls of fresh basil
- 8 to 10 pieces of thinly sliced ham or prosciutto
- 1 or 2 tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup green olives, sliced

Directions

1. Use a serrated knife to cut off the top third of the loaf of bread. Tear away the interior bread leaving about one inch, including the crust. Brush the inside of the top and bottom pieces with olive oil. Spread the tapenade on the underside of the top and set aside.

2. Begin layering. You can't go wrong. First lay down the red peppers and get them into every corner. Next, lay down the mozzarella and cover with basil leaves. Ham could come next, then olives and tomatoes. If your bread is deep enough, repeat. When you're done, place the top on and gently press down.

4. Wrap the whole thing in parchment or cling film. Place it on a plate with something heavy on top. Put it in the fridge over night.

5. When you're ready to serve, unwrap your sandwich and cut into the loaf with a serrated knife.

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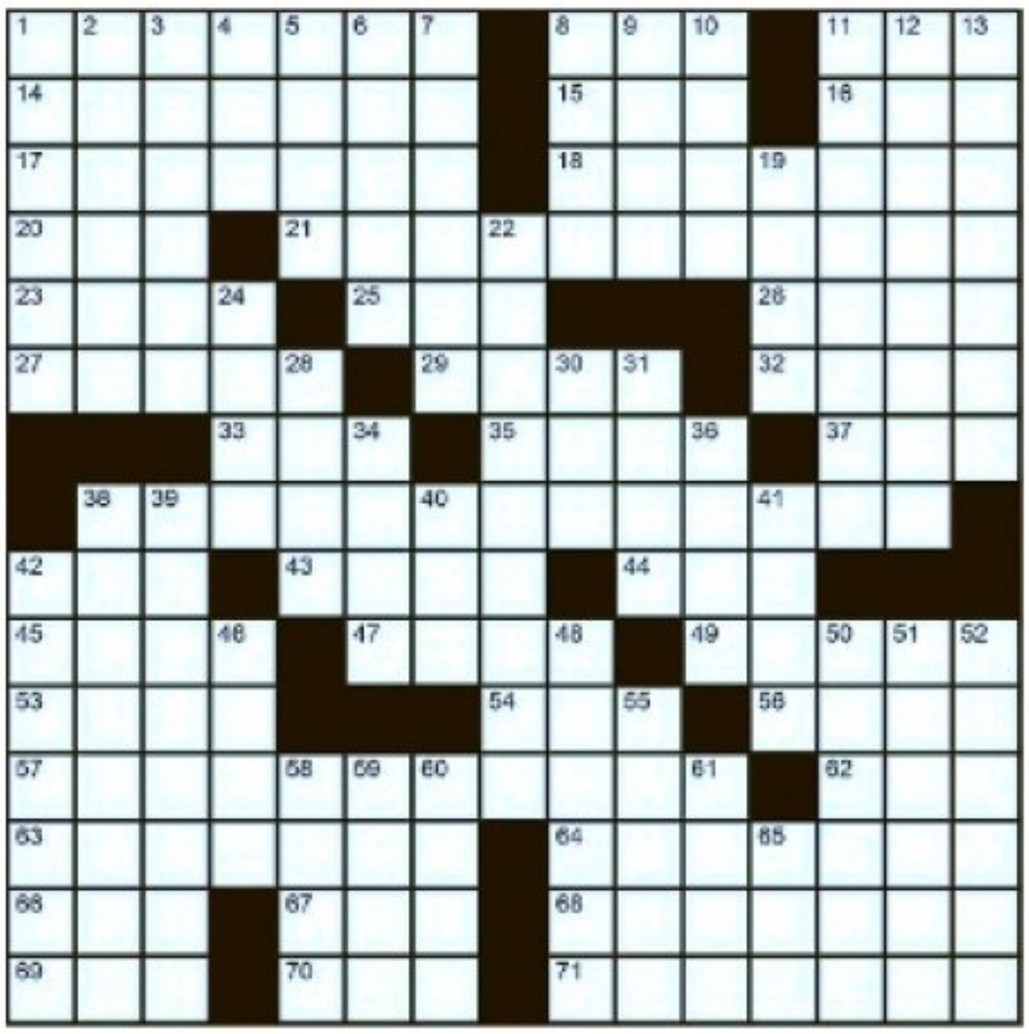
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Sizeable topical story: 2 wds.
8. Charlotte's Web author Mr. White, et al.
11. Bob & Doug utterances
14. What the key signature of the F Major scale consists of: 2 wds.
15. Bus, e.g.
16. Beaufort _
17. Saskatchewan's provincial fish
18. A credit is due to you if you do this
20. MLB's Cardinals, on scoreboards
21. Western accessories: 2 wds.
23. Even
25. Fire: French
26. Cinder-like
27. When to stop when driving: 2 wds.
29. Dullsville
32. Muck
33. "Phooey!"
35. Aggravate
37. Froms opposites
38. "The Littlest Hobo" theme song: 2 wds.
42. Saloon supply
43. Drive-_ (Type of restaurant)
44. Suit neckwear
45. "Behold!" to Brutus
47. Suspire
49. Recognizes
53. Synonyms book, for short
54. Bricks carrier
56. Almond tone
57. April 29th, 2011: Abbey where Prince William married Kate
62. Pourboire
63. Pointed-to spot where a mouse might be hiding: 2 wds.
64. Retro recording record
66. Sun. delivery
67. Puny parasite
68. Become frozen up: 2 wds.
69. 'Trick' suffix
70. Initials-sharers of #3-Down's portrayer
71. Roofing beams

DOWN
1. Greets with reverence: 2 wds.
2. How sardines are packaged: 3 wds.
3. Ross on "Friends"
4. Gr. on ESPN
5. Util. bill
6. By _ _ (Via)
7. _ tomatoes
8. Cooking oil, to Rachael Ray
9. Bunch
10. 1958 novelty hit "The Purple People Eater" by _ Wooley
11. Canadian hockey brothers Phil or Tony
12. England's famous international airport
13. Accepts the proposal: 2 wds.
19. Rove
22. Jackie _ (England-born Canadian actress who starred on "Road to Avonlea")
24. Resist
28. Financial obligation
30. Archery skill
31. Ink mark on clothing
34. Sly laughs
36. Mr. Estrada of "CHiPs"
38. James A. _ (Pulitzer-winning author in 1948 for Tales of the South Pacific)
39. Family history field
40. Uni + Bi = _
41. Ms. Russo
42. Smarten up: 2 wds.
46. Bible book, e.g.
48. Bunk: 2 wds.
50. Vocalist's interval
51. Margaret Atwood's profession
52. Apt. building managers
55. Vintage record label for Bing Crosby
58. Heal
59. 'Eye' flower
60. Meshworks
61. Coral _
65. Sum, shortly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
In the next three weeks, you will be able to attract money. You might find a better-paying job, or you might see a way to make money on the side.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Buy wardrobe items in the next three weeks, because this is the perfect time to do so. You will enjoy doing this, because you like what you see in the mirror.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Secret love affairs and flirtations will occur for some in the next few weeks. Others will seek out opportunities to enjoy solitude in beautiful surroundings.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A friend might become a lover in the next few weeks. Basically, friendships, especially with creative, artistic people, will be warmer.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A romance or a flirtation with your boss is likely in the coming month. Meanwhile, someone will ask you for your creative input in the next few weeks.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Travel for pleasure will please you in the next three weeks. If you can't travel, enjoy learning something new that expands your horizons.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It will be easier for you to get a mortgage or a loan in the next three weeks. This is also a good time to negotiate financial matters with others.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Fair Venus moves opposite your sign today to stay for the next three weeks improving all your relations with close friends and partners. Nice benefit.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Relations with co-workers will improve in the next few weeks. Some of you will get a raise, and most certainly praise for your efforts on the job.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you can slip away on a vacation in the next few weeks, you will love it! Romance, love affairs, playful excursions and the arts will delight you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Go ahead with redecorating ideas for your home in the next few weeks, because this will please you. This is also a good time to be open to real-estate opportunities.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can make money from your words in the next three weeks. This is an excellent window of time for those in sales, marketing, teaching, acting and writing. Ka-ching

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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		7				1		
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STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Patience and right counsel made Esther to stand out among the virgins that contested for the queen's office. While others requested for whatever they desired as they go to see King Ahasuerus, Esther asked for nothing other than Hegai's recommendation, "and the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti." (Esther 2:17) Majority position notwithstanding, you can still malse an impact with patience, right counsel and focus on God.

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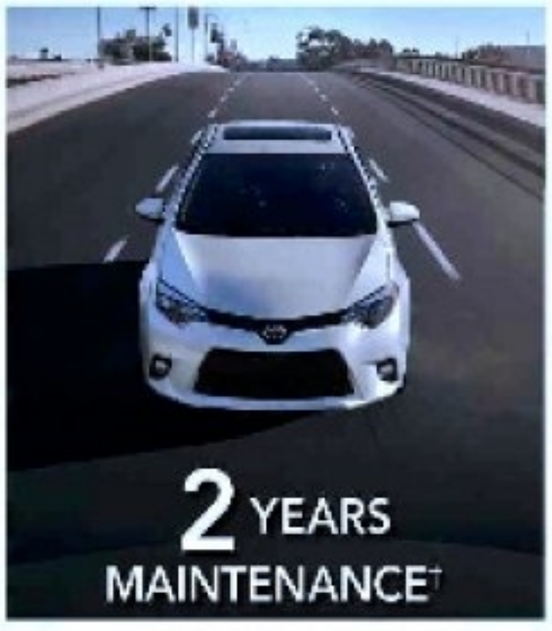

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